



Victorian Certificate of Education

2010

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Letter

Figures

Words

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PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 15 November 2010

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)

Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	4	4	15
B	3	3	15
C	3	3	15
D	3	1	15
			Total 60

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 11 pages.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

SECTION A**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **all** four questions.

Question 1

In the debate with Callicles, Socrates holds that ‘self-discipline makes for greater happiness than self-indulgence’.

Why does he think this? Is his case convincing?

4 marks

Question 2

‘To say that happiness is the chief good seems a platitude, and a clearer account of what it is is still desired.’
(Aristotle)

Outline and evaluate some elements in Aristotle’s ‘clearer account’ of happiness.

4 marks

Question 3

Outline and evaluate Nietzsche's main criticisms of contemporary European morality.

4 marks

Question 4

Murdoch thinks that the advance of science has made life seem 'self-enclosed and purposeless'. To develop a better view of life, what strategies does she recommend?

3 marks

Total 15 marks

SECTION B

Instructions for Section B

Answer **all** three questions.

In 1631, England's royal printers reprinted the Bible but somehow omitted the "not" in *Exodus* 20:14, the seventh commandment concerning adultery. An amusing mistake for everyone but the printers, who were fined £300 and lost their

licence, while the Archbishop of Canterbury complained about declining standards among proofreaders.

Yorkshire Anglican priest Tim Jones promulgated* a similar amendment to the eighth commandment, “thou shalt not

steal”, in his Christmas sermon. He advised parishioners that it was OK to shoplift if they were desperate – much better than burglary, mugging or prostitution – but they should target big stores that could pass the costs on through slightly higher prices.

Barney Zwartz, *The Age*, 12 January 2010

* suggested

Question 1

Critically evaluate how any **two** of the following would respond to Tim Jones' advice: Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Murdoch.

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6 marks

What do you think about the relationship between leading a good life and stealing? Justify your response.

3 marks

In attempting to lead a good life how can we know how we ought to behave, since opinions differ?

6 marks

END OF SECTION B
TURN OVER

SECTION C**Instructions for Section C**

Answer **all** three questions.

Question 1

At the beginning of his *Second Meditation*, Descartes wonders whether anything at all can be certain. By the end of it, however, he has reached some positive conclusions about himself.

Outline and critically evaluate his argument for **one** of these conclusions.

4 marks

Question 2

‘A mental state is a state of the person apt for producing certain ranges of behaviour.’ (Armstrong)

Outline and evaluate his argument for this view.

5 marks

SECTION C – continued

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Armstrong claims that science provides reasons for rejecting Cartesian dualism.

Who has the stronger case? Justify your opinion.

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Total 15 marks

Instructions for Section D

Write an essay on **one** of the following topics.

Question 1

Does science progress towards truth? Discuss with reference to at least **two** of the following: Plato, Popper, Kuhn.

OR

Question 2

Outline Popper's distinction between science and 'pseudo-science'. Evaluate his distinction in the light of at least **two** of the following examples: Einstein's relativity, Marx's theory of history, Freud's psychoanalysis, Adler's 'individual psychology', Darwinian evolutionary theory.

OR

Question 3

‘When it comes to acquiring knowledge of reality, Plato has too much confidence in our intellectual powers and Kuhn has too little.’ Do you agree?

Total 15 marks



Question 1, 2 or 3

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SECTION D – continued
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