



# Victorian Certificate of Education

## 2012

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

### STUDENT NUMBER

Letter

Figures

Words


# PHILOSOPHY

## Written examination

**Tuesday 13 November 2012**

**Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)**

**Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm (2 hours)**

## QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

### Structure of book

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
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**

According to Socrates, philosophy is superior to rhetoric.

Outline and evaluate one of his reasons for holding this view.

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3 marks

**Question 2**

Aristotle argues that the good life involves ‘activity of soul exhibiting virtue’.

Outline **two** of the premises or arguments in Aristotle’s case for this claim, and evaluate one of them.

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4 marks

**Question 3**

Nietzsche says: 'The "well-born" *felt* they were "the happy".'

How, in Nietzsche's view, does the conception of happiness that is held by the 'well-born' differ from that held by the 'common man'? Evaluate Nietzsche's distinction between these conceptions of happiness.

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4 marks

**Question 4**

Outline and evaluate Weil's account of how rights, obligations and needs are related to each other.

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4 marks



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6 marks

**Question 2**

‘However, we emphasise the goal of a balanced life, in which the essential wellbeing of oneself, one’s family, one’s friends and one’s community is the priority.’

How might Aristotle and Nietzsche each respond to this notion of a balanced life?

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4 marks

**Question 3**

On the basis of the ‘Our School’ statement, would you consider sending a child of yours to Kookaburra College? Justify your answer.

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5 marks

### Instructions for Section C

Answer **all** three questions.

### Question 1

The radical scepticism of Descartes' 'First Meditation' is brought to an end in the 'Second Meditation': 'I must finally conclude that this proposition, *I am, I exist*, is necessarily true whenever it is put forward by me or conceived in my mind.'

Outline and evaluate Descartes' case for this conclusion.

[illegible]

4 marks

## Question 2

Armstrong distinguishes two forms of behaviourism, and rejects both.

What are his reasons for rejecting them? How does he see his own position as overcoming these problems?

[illegible]

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5 marks

**Question 3**

- a. Outline **either** an argument for dualism given by Descartes **or** an argument for materialism given by Armstrong.

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2 marks

- b. Evaluate the argument you have outlined in **part a**.

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2 marks

- c. What implications does the argument you have outlined in **part a** have for a relevant contemporary debate?

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2 marks

### Instructions for Section D

### Question 1

Discuss this claim with reference to at least **two** of the following: Hume, Popper, Kuhn.

15 marks

## Question 2

Discuss this claim with reference to at least **two** of the following: Hume, Popper, Kuhn.

15 marks

### Question 3

Discuss this claim with reference to at least **two** of the following: Hume, Popper, Kuhn.

15 marks

**Question 1, 2 or 3**

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[illegible]

**SECTION D – continued**  
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