



Western Australian Certificate of Education Examination, 2015

Question/Answer Booklet

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS Stage 3

Please place your student identification label in this box

Student Number: In figures

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In words

Time allowed for this paper

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time for paper: three hours

Materials required/recommended for this paper

To be provided by the supervisor

This Question/Answer Booklet

Number of additional answer booklets used (if applicable):

To be provided by the candidate

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener, correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: nil

Important note to candidates

No other items may be taken into the examination room. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised notes or other items of a non-personal nature in the examination room. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.

Structure of this paper

Section	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be answered	Suggested working time (minutes)	Marks available	Percentage of exam
Section One: Reasoning and inquiry skills	8	8	50	30	30
Section Two: Philosophical analysis	2	2	80	40	40
Section Three: Extended argument	5	1	50	30	30
Total					100

Instructions to candidates

1. The rules for the conduct of Western Australian external examinations are detailed in the *Year 12 Information Handbook 2015*. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.
2. Write your answers in this Question/Answer Booklet.
3. You must be careful to confine your responses to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.
4. Spare pages are included at the end of this booklet. They can be used for planning your responses and/or as additional space if required to continue an answer.
 - Planning: If you use the spare pages for planning, indicate this clearly at the top of the page.
 - Continuing an answer: If you need to use the space to continue an answer, indicate in the original answer space where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number. Fill in the number of the question that you are continuing to answer at the top of the page.

Section One: Reasoning and inquiry skills

30% (30 Marks)

This section contains **eight (8)** questions. Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Suggested working time: 50 minutes.

Question 1

(3 marks)

Are the following statements analytic or synthetic?

- (a) If a coffee cup is green, then it is coloured. (1 mark)

- (b) Sponges are animals that live in the ocean. (1 mark)

- (c) If a yard is longer than a digit, and a digit is longer than a cubit, then a yard is longer than a cubit. (1 mark)

Question 2

(5 marks)

It is always immoral to lie to another person, even in a situation in which a lie could save someone's life. Lying, in extreme cases like this, is still lying. So, in all circumstances, lying is an unethical thing to do.

For the above argument:

- (a) Circle the inference indicator. (1 mark)

- (b) Underline the conclusion. (1 mark)

- (c) Evaluate the cogency of the argument. Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

Cogent

Not cogent

- (d) Give **two** reasons that justify your evaluation of the cogency of the argument. (2 marks)

Question 3**(2 marks)**

- (a) Express the following sentence as a disjunctive (X or Y) statement.

If a tree is not deciduous, then it is evergreen.

(1 mark)

- (b) If the premises are true, then the conclusion will also be true.

Underline the sentence that means the same as the above sentence.

(1 mark)

- (i) The premises being true is sufficient for the conclusion being true.
(ii) The premises being true is necessary for the conclusion being true.

Question 4**(3 marks)**

- (a) Name the fallacy in the following argument.

(1 mark)

The Federal opposition party is against the current reform package for higher education, saying that it is inequitable. But, it's obviously crazy to think that everyone should be treated exactly the same. They just want to reduce everyone to the lowest common denominator.

- (b) Name the fallacy in the following argument.

(1 mark)

Justice for all human beings is something that every good society should strive for. This is because it is generally advantageous to society. Thus, because it is highly conducive to the interests of the state, justice for each individual should be pursued.

- (c) Name the fallacy in the following argument.

(1 mark)

We must oppose any changes to the Marriage Act. If homosexual people are legally allowed to marry, where will it end? People will be wanting to marry their pets and their close relatives next.

Question 5

(3 marks)

A 20-year study based in China showed that if you eat a diet high in animal products (including dairy) then you are more likely to develop chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease, diabetes and bowel cancer. So, if you avoid a diet high in animal products then you will avoid developing such diseases.

For the above argument:

(a) Underline the conclusion. (1 mark)

(b) Evaluate the cogency of the argument. Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

Cogent

Not cogent

(c) Justify your evaluation of the cogency of the argument. (1 mark)

Question 6

(4 marks)

On Saturday night, twenty-three people at a cocktail party became violently ill with *Salmonella* food poisoning. All twenty-three people had eaten the satay chicken wings during their time at the party. So, the satay chicken wings must have caused the food poisoning.

Answer the following questions for the above argument:

(a) This argument is not cogent. Explain why. (1 mark)

(b) Bracket and number the separable statements. (1 mark)

(c) Suggest a premise that might be added to the argument to increase the inferential strength. (1 mark)

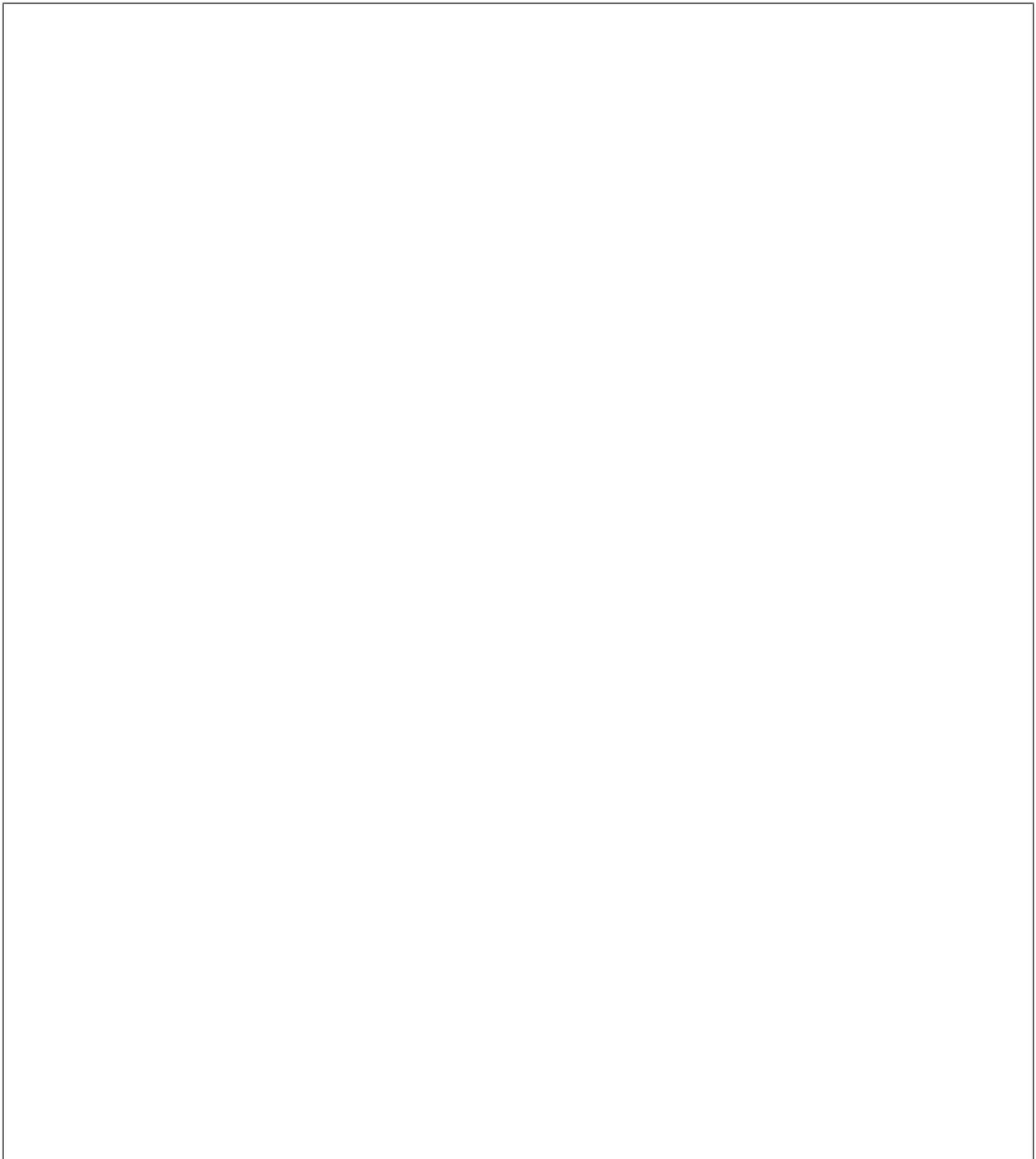
(d) The final sentence is the conclusion. Suggest how the conclusion could be revised so that the original argument is cogent. (1 mark)

Question 7

(4 marks)

Construct a deductively valid argument that uses **all** and **only** the following statements once. Use a diagram to represent the argument you construct.

- (1) If an Artificial Intelligence System (AIS) will be able to perfectly imitate a human being, then it must be able to understand the meaning of words and actions.
- (2) An AIS will never be able to perfectly imitate a human being.
- (3) An AIS will never be able to do more than merely manipulate symbols.
- (4) If an AIS must have the ability to understand the meaning of words and actions, then it must be able to do more than merely manipulate symbols.
- (5) If an AIS is to perfectly imitate a human being, then it must be able to do more than merely manipulate symbols.



See next page

Question 8

(6 marks)

We have to stop dredging around the Great Barrier Reef. The practice of dredging is destructive to the Reef itself and destructive of the wider aquatic ecosystems that support life on the Reef. Thus, dredging can damage the Reef beyond repair, and we cannot afford, environmentally or economically, for the reef to be destroyed.

For the above argument:

- (a) Write down **in full** and number the separable statements in the order in which they occur. (3 marks)

- (b) Using the numbers you have given each proposition, draw a diagram of the argument. (3 marks)

Section Two: Philosophical analysis**40% (40 Marks)**

This section contains **two (2)** questions. Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

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Suggested working time: 80 minutes.

Question 9**(20 marks)**

The following dialogue is an excerpt from a community of inquiry.

You are required to:

- summarise (2 marks)
- clarify (6 marks)
- and critically evaluate the contributions of each participant. (12 marks)

Kevin: People who get caught for running drug smuggling operations in foreign countries deserve the punishment they get. I have no sympathy for them, and I don't think taxpayers' money should be spent on trying to gain them clemency.

Julia: I totally disagree. I think Australia should do everything in its power to prevent its citizens from being executed in foreign countries. How could you think that anyone deserves the death penalty? We don't believe in the death penalty in Australia, so why should you think it is okay in Indonesia? The death penalty is barbaric, regardless of where it happens.

Kevin: Well, it's not that long ago we had the death penalty here in Australia, and there are still lots of Australians who would like us to have it back, so I'm not sure you are right when you say 'we don't believe in the death penalty in Australia'. And the death penalty may be barbaric, as you say, but so is smuggling heroin. When you have seen the amount of death and destruction that is caused by drugs, the loss of one or two lives of those who perpetrate the trade seems okay to me. I think they deserve to pay for their crime. If they did it here they would pay with jail time, but unfortunately for them the payment in Indonesia is your life.

Julia: Yes, it's true that the penalty is death in Indonesia, but that doesn't mean that it ought to be. The death penalty violates the right to life. Life is a fundamental human right, and in being so it applies to all humans regardless of where they come from or where they commit a crime. How could you think that drug dealers in Australia don't deserve the death penalty, but people in Indonesia do?

Kevin: Indonesia is not Australia, and they do things differently there. The law in Indonesia applies to people in Indonesia and we have to respect other peoples' cultures and beliefs. We expect people who come to Australia to respect our laws, so likewise people who go overseas should respect the laws of the country they're in. You can't pick and choose the laws you want to obey. I mean, you wouldn't go to America and drive on the left hand side of the road and not expect to have an accident, so why would you think you could smuggle drugs in Indonesia and not receive the death penalty if you were caught?

See next page

Question 10**(20 marks)**

Choose **one (1)** of the following texts and

- summarise (2 marks)
- clarify (8 marks)
- and critically evaluate it. (10 marks)

Text one

We ought to protect wilderness and wild ecosystems wherever possible. There are several reasons why this is so. Firstly, the wilderness ecosystems such as rainforests and coral reefs help to regulate our weather patterns and support enormous biodiversity, and both these are crucial to the ongoing health of the planet and thus the survival of the human race. Secondly, the wilderness is the home of many and various animals and plants. While animals and plants in general are extremely useful to humans, they also have intrinsic value in their own right as individual living things, and hence should be accorded respect. Protecting their ecosystems is a way to show animals and plants respect. And finally, the experience of wilderness is fundamentally important to the human psyche, and if it is, then it is essential that wilderness areas are protected and preserved so that current and future generations of human beings can also benefit from the experience of wilderness, which is their birthright. So, you can see we have a moral obligation to protect wilderness.

Text two

Abortion should be legal, safe and rare. It should be legal because, in a secular liberal democracy, there are no unequivocal or even widely agreed upon moral grounds for making it illegal, and, as a commitment to freedom is at the heart of our social and political system, we should maximise the opportunity for people to choose for themselves. Abortion should be safe, because if it is not safe then it may cause harm to the patient, and we must try to minimise harm where possible. It should be rare for two reasons. First, there are easily accessible and affordable means to avoid unwanted pregnancies, so unwanted pregnancies should themselves be rare. And, secondly, when it comes to contested moral questions, we should err on the side of caution. While there is no clear matter of fact about when a foetus becomes a person, it is undeniable that from the first moment of conception the foetus is a potential person and, as such, should have their interests at least taken into account in any decision to terminate pregnancy.

Text three

Some people think that the scientific method is universally applicable, and that science is the only source of true, factual knowledge about the world, and about human beings and their societies. But this can't be true. For one thing, it is a kind of epistemological fundamentalism, because it assumes that there is only one proper way of knowing about and understanding the world. Secondly, science, by its very nature, only attempts to give us an account of objective reality, that is, the world as it is in itself, independent of perspective. But, human experience is very much part of the world and it is, by its very nature, subjective and dependent on perspective. So, in being inherently subjective, human experience cannot be a proper subject of science. Furthermore, subjective human experience is the foundation for many of the centrally important achievements of human culture and spirituality, such as music, theatre, literature, religion and art. These pursuits do help us to understand the world and our place within it, hence they give us a type of knowledge that is not acquired through the scientific method, but is about the world, and about human beings and their societies.

End of Section Two

Section Three begins on page 20

See next page

Section Three: Extended argument**30% (30 Marks)**

This section contains **five (5)** questions. Answer **one (1)** question. Write your answer in the space provided. Argue for or against the statement with clear definitions, examples and reasons.

Marks will be awarded for demonstration of:

- philosophical understandings (10 marks)
- philosophical argument (15 marks)
- and clarity and structure. (5 marks)

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Suggested working time: 50 minutes.

Question 11 (30 marks)

An action being deemed right or wrong cannot depend on the cultural context.

Question 12 (30 marks)

Civic involvement is both an essential social good and the key to a meaningful life.

Question 13 (30 marks)

There can be no knowledge when postmodernism tells us that there are as many truths as there are perspectives.

Question 14 (30 marks)

A liberal democracy is the only social and political organisation that is able to uphold individual liberty, equality and human rights.

Question 15 (30 marks)

Religious experience produces faith, whereas scientific experience produces knowledge.

End of questions

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