Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

ATAR course examination, 2017

Question/Answer booklet

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Please place your student identification label in this box

Student number: In figures

In words

Time allowed for this paper

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time: 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 material. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.

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Structure of this paper

Section	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be answered	Suggested working time (minutes)	Marks available	Percentage of examination
Section One Critical reasoning	9	9	50	30	30
Section Two Philosophical analysis and evaluation	2	2	80	40	40
Section Three Construction of argument	5	1	50	30	30
				Total	100

Instructions to candidates

1. The rules for the conduct of the Western Australian external examinations are detailed in the *Year 12 Information Handbook 2017*. 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 answers to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.

4. Supplementary pages for the use of planning/continuing your answer to a question have been provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Section One: Critical reasoning **30% (30 Marks)**

This section contains **nine (9)** questions. Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Suggested working time: 50 minutes.

Question 1 **(3 marks)**

Smoking tobacco is an unnatural and unhealthy practice because it is not beneficial to mental or physical health and it is not part of the natural way of things for a person to inhale the smoke of burning dried tobacco.

For the above argument:

(a) Circle the word that **best** describes the strength of the inference. (1 mark)

Weak Moderate Strong

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

Cogent Not Cogent

(c) Give **one** reason that justifies your evaluation of the cogency. (1 mark)

_____

_____

Question 2 **(3 marks)**

(a) If you don't do well in your examinations, you can't go to Rottnest.

Underline the sentence that means the same as the above sentence. (1 mark)

(i) You cannot go to Rottnest unless you do well in your examinations.

(ii) If you do well in your examinations, then you can go to Rottnest.

(b) Express the following sentence as a conditional (If X, then Y) statement. (1 mark)

You are either with me or you are against me.

_____

_____

(c) Is the following statement analytic or synthetic? (1 mark)

If all cats have tails and Snuggles is a cat, then Snuggles has a tail.

_____

Question 3 **(2 marks)**

In formal logic, reasoning that satisfies **both** the following requirements: truth of premises and deductive validity, is called 'sound'. Because of this, sound reasoning succeeds in justifying or explaining its conclusion; unsound reasoning fails to do so.

For the above argument:

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

(b) Using the numbers you have given each proposition, draw a diagram of the argument. (1 mark)

Question 4 **(2 marks)**

The object of reasoning is to find out, from the consideration of what we already know, something we do not know. Reasoning is good, consequently, if it leads to a true conclusion from true premises and not otherwise.

For the above argument:

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

(b) Underline the conclusion. (1 mark)

Question 5 **(2 marks)**

Since we implemented the new training program for psychiatric emergency teams, reports of emergency psychiatric patients being harmed have decreased. The training program is clearly successful in preventing harm to patients in emergency situations.

For the above argument:

(a) Underline the conclusion. (1 mark)

(b) Name the fallacy. (1 mark)

Question 6 **(4 marks)**

(a) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

We have to legalise gay marriage. We either legalise it or we subject a significant percentage of the population to a life of misery and we can't subject people to a life of misery.

(b) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

The higher the rate of consumption of chocolate per capita that a country has, the more Nobel Prize winners it has. It might seem unexpected that eating chocolate makes you smarter, but chocolate contains powerful antioxidants called flavanols that are known to improve cognitive ability, and improved cognitive ability surely plays a large role in winning Nobel Prizes.

(c) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

If we don't legislate to ban people from wearing religious garments and symbols like crucifixes and headscarves we will very quickly find ourselves overrun by religion, with a mosque in every suburb and a priest around every corner.

(d) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

Cutting the company tax rate must be ok because, even though it will reduce the government revenue in the short term, most people approve of it.

Question 7 **(4 marks)**

Scientific realists think that we have good reasons to believe that our presently successful scientific theories are true. But most of those that were successful in the past turned out to be false, so we have no good reason to believe that our currently successful scientific theories are true. So, they are just being over-optimistic.

For the above argument:

Write in full and number the separable statements in their order of occurrence.

Question 8 **(6 marks)**

No-one should be entitled to inherit any property whatsoever from their relatives or from anyone else. The main reason for this is that inheriting property reinforces existing inequalities unfairly. Firstly, allowing inheritance impoverishes those who by no fault of their own have poor relatives. And, secondly, those with wealthy relatives get richer through no efforts of their own. A further reason why no-one should be entitled to inherit any property is that inheriting property causes conflict among those lucky enough to share an inheritance.

For the above argument:

(a) Circle **three** inference indicators. (1 mark)

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

(c) Using the numbers you have given each proposition, draw a diagram of the argument. (4 marks)

Question 9 **(4 marks)**

If we don't increase interest rates then housing prices will keep increasing. If they keep increasing it will be almost impossible for first-home buyers to afford a home and if that's almost impossible, the economy will stagnate and the rental market will be under too much pressure. So, if we don't increase interest rates the economy will stagnate and the rental market will be under too much pressure.

For the above argument:

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

(b) Using the numbers you have given each proposition, draw a diagram of the argument. (2 marks)

(c) Circle the word that **best** describes the strength of the inference. (1 mark)

Weak Moderate Strong

End of Section One

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

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

Write your answers on the lined pages following Question 10 and Question 11.

Supplementary pages for the use of planning/continuing your answer to a question have been provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 80 minutes.

Question 10 **(20 marks)**

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

You are required to:

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

DON: Protecting the environment is bad for business, it's bad for jobs, so it's bad for people. We need to ignore these lentil-eating hippies who chain themselves to trees and think they know better than businessmen.

BERNIE: But scientists have proved beyond all doubt that global warming is now affecting our planet. Unless we take serious measures to protect the environment there will not be an economy or jobs to protect. That will be bad for people now and for the generations to come.

DON: The people I'm worried about are actual people now, people whose jobs are on the line, not some possible future people who may or may not exist. Why should anyone worry about possible harms, to possible people, in some possible future scenario that scientists are saying *might* come about?

BERNIE: Well, imagine a situation where we could press one of two buttons that produce two possible alternative future scenarios of the world in a hundred years time. Button A guarantees that the future world contains much more suffering than happiness and Button B guarantees that the future world contains far more happiness than suffering. Wouldn't there be a strong moral obligation to press Button B even though the pleasure and pain will be had by merely possible people in a merely possible future?

DON: You claim that dealing with global warming is as easy as pressing a button but you have completely misunderstood my original point about how bad protecting the environment is for business.

Question 11 **(20 marks)**

Choose **one** of the following texts and:

- summarise the text (2 marks)
- clarify its meaning (8 marks)
- evaluate it critically. (10 marks)

Text one

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Text two

'Human being' is a biological concept whereas 'person' is an ethical concept. For this reason, the question whether something is a human being is straightforward: one is either a member of the species *homo sapiens*, or one is not. In contrast, the question whether something counts as a person is complex and requires moral judgment. To count as a person, you have to meet various criteria that might include self-awareness, autonomy, moral responsibility, and rationality. Furthermore, we can give examples of things that are straightforwardly biologically human but are only potential persons (such as foetuses), and things that are ex-persons (such as those who are 'clinically dead'). And we can think of things that are not human that we might want to consider as 'persons' such as family pets, artificial intelligence systems or higher primates. So, not every human being is a person, and not every person is a human being.

Text three

Our knowledge about things we cannot observe must come from experience, by a process of inductive reasoning. But any inference we make from a set of observed regularities to a general claim that allows us to make predictions about things we cannot observe depends on the implicit premise that the future (what we cannot yet observe) will resemble the past (what we have already experienced). And the only reason we can have for believing in the premise that the future will resemble the past is that so far our past futures have resembled our past pasts. But this gives us no grounds for thinking that the regularities that we have so far experienced will continue to hold in the future. So you can see that the premise that supports our belief in induction is simply the belief in the process of induction itself, which is a circular argument of the most vicious kind.

End of Section Two

Section Three: Construction of argument **30% (30 Marks)**

This section contains **five (5)** questions. Answer **one (1)** question. Write your answer on the lined pages provided following Question 16. 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)
- clarity and structure. (5 marks)

Supplementary pages for the use of planning/continuing your answer to a question have been provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 50 minutes.

Question 12 **(30 marks)**

Knowledge is impossible without experience.

Question 13 **(30 marks)**

Humans are essentially social beings.

Question 14 **(30 marks)**

There is no coherent concept of God.

Question 15 **(30 marks)**

A just society must be founded on secular values.

Question 16 **(30 marks)**

The theory of evolution cannot explain human culture and society.

End of questions

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Question 11 **Text one**

Adapted from: Plato. (1935). *The republic* of *Plato* (A. D. Lindsay, Trans.). London: J. M. Dent, p. 5. (Original work written c. 380 BC)

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