Examination paper

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS - UNIT 3/4

Student Name: _____

Student Number: _____

Teacher: _____

Time allowed for this paper
Reading/planning time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time for paper: three hours

Material required/recommended for this paper
To be provided by the supervisor
This Question/Answer Booklet

To be provided by the candidate
Standard materials: pens, pencil, eraser or correction fluid, highlighter and ruler.
Special materials: nil

Important note to candidates
No other materials may be taken into the examination room. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised notes or other material 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	Suggested working time	Number of items available	Number of items to be attempted	Marks available
Section One: Reasoning and inquiry skills	50 minutes	9	9	30
Section Two: Philosophical analysis	80 minutes	2	2	40
Section Three: Extended argument	50 minutes	5	1	30
			Total	100

Instructions to candidates

1. Write your answers for section 1 in the spaces provided in this paper. Use a blue or black pen only.

2. You must confine your responses to the items and to follow all instructions specific to each item.

3. Spare answer pages may be found at the end of this booklet if you need more space to answer. Please indicate in the original answer space where the answer is continued.

Section One: Reasoning and Inquiry Skills   **30 Marks**

Attempt all questions in this section.

Suggested working time for this section is 50 minutes.

Question 1 **(2 marks)**

Are the following statements analytic or synthetic?

a) The human body is symmetrically shaped.

b) There are nine whole numbers between zero and ten.

Question 2 **(4 marks)**

In the following argument:

a) Number and bracket each statement in order of appearance (1 mark)
b) Diagram the argument (3 marks)

Western Australia is the largest state in Australia. Political representation should be proportional to the area being represented. It follows that Western Australia should have the largest number of political representatives in the Australian Parliament. But that is not the case. So a political reform movement is needed to get proper representation for WA. But states with larger representation than WA will strongly resist such reform. Hence, there may need to be violent revolution to achieve this reform.

Question 3 **(5 marks)**

For the following argument:

   a) Bracket and number all the statements that make up the argument (1 mark)
   b) Circle the inference indicator(s) (1 mark)
   c) Diagram the argument (3 marks)

All children should be taught to play music from an early age. One reason for this is that music is best learned when a person is young. The other reason is that playing music has benefits in later life. People who can play music tend to be better than others at mental concentration, and mental concentration is a necessary ability to succeed in anything difficult.

Question 4 **(2 marks)**

For the following argument:

   a) evaluate the strength of the inference (deductively valid or strong or moderate or weak)
   b) justify your evaluation.

Charles Dickens is one of the greatest novelists in the English language. The proof of this claim is that many millions of readers have read and enjoyed his novels.

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Question 5 **(2 marks)**

For the following argument:

  a) evaluate the strength of the inference (deductively valid or strong or moderate or weak)
  b) justify your evaluation.

Liberal democracies will never go to war against other liberal democracies. Australia and New Zealand are liberal democracies. Therefore, New Zealand will never go to war against Australia.

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Question 6 **(5 marks)**

For the following argument:

  a) circle the word that best describes the strength of the inference
  b) circle the word that best describes the cogency of the argument
  c) justify your evaluation of the cogency of the argument.

New Zealand will never win a cricket match against India, since New Zealand has a population of only about 5 million people while India has a population of about 1300 million.

  a) WEAK   MODERATE   STRONG   DEDUCTIVELY VALID   (1 mark)

  b)   LACKS COGENCY   MODERATELY COGENT   COGENT   (1 mark)

  c) _____

      _____

      _____

      _____

      _____

Question 7 **(4 marks)**

Name the fallacy in the following argument and explain why it is a fallacy

    a) After the Second World War, the countries involved experienced a long economic boom. This shows that the war caused the economic boom.

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        _____

        _____

    b) Droughts in Eastern Australia are frequently associated with El Nino episodes in the south-eastern Pacific. This is good evidence that the former causes the latter.

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        _____

Question 8 **(3 marks)**

Express the following sentence as a conditional (If X then Y) statement.

    a) Only the good die young.

        _____

        _____

        _____

        _____

Are the following two sentences logically equivalent? Answer YES or NO

    b) If the price of oil goes down the cost of transport will also go down.
        The cost of transport going down is a sufficient condition of the price of oil going down.

        _____

Are the following two sentences logically equivalent? Answer YES or NO.

    c) Only if you have good looks can you get a job on television.
        Having a job on television is a sufficient condition of having good looks.

        _____

Question 9 **(3 marks)**

For the following argument:

a) Bracket and number in order of appearance the separate propositions in the argument
b) Diagram the argument

No living thing lives forever. The reason for this is that all living things are made up of complex organic chemical bonds, and those bonds are fragile. When those bonds break down, death soon follows. If we could build a living thing out of simple inorganic chemical bonds, we could create immortal life, but we can't do that, so, as already stated, no living thing lives forever.

End of Section One

Section Two: Philosophical Analysis   **40 Marks**

This section contains **two** questions. Answer both questions.
Suggested working time for this section is 80 minutes.

Question 10 – Community of Inquiry   **(20 marks)**

In the following dialogue, you are required to:
- summarise   (2 marks)
- clarify   (6 marks)
- and critically evaluate   (12 marks)

the contributions of each participant

Arjun – Do you ever wonder what the point of it all is? I mean, our exams symbolise the end of 13 years of compulsory school education. 13 years of tests, study, assessment and grades. No sooner have you finished one assessment, then there is another one around the corner. Then there will be another exam – and then yet another inevitable fail. This is a microcosm of the whole of our life – one big treadmill with no meaning or purpose for anyone except failure and disappointment. I hope that the next life will be better.

Sarah – What do you mean? This life is just starting for us! We have so many choices and opportunities ahead of us where we can find meaning– we can go to Uni, Travel, start a career, own a house, buy a car, find a partner, have children. I've always dreamed of starting my own business – and now I can! The possibilities are endless for us – it is so exciting and liberating to finally be free!

Arjun – I agree that we should try to find some meaning somewhere - but not where you suggest. Uni will soon be over, holidays always come to an end and possessions just lead to the desire for more possessions. This just proves the absurdity of life – you have all of these choices, and yet I have found that none of them lead to anything meaningful. This shows that the Universe itself is meaningless.

Sarah - Stop being such a pessimist! There is no next life - but it is because of the fact that we all die means that everyone should make meaning out of their life now – even you, you miserable old git! It doesn't matter what you do – you can sing in a band, read books, play Scrabble, get involved in your community – or just find contentment and happiness being you. Life has a meaning and a purpose for everyone – you just have to find it, live it and take responsibility for your choices.

Arjun – In my view, there is no meaning in this life, so we should look to the next life. I don't know what form the next life will take – but it has to be there in some form. That's where my meaning and purpose is to be found.

Section Two: Philosophical Analysis (continued)

Question 11 – Passage Analysis **(20 marks)**

Choose **one (1)** of the following three passages and
- summarise (2 marks)
- clarify (8 marks)
- and critically evaluate (10 marks)
the topic in the passage

Passage One:

On the surface it seems the belief in evolution aligns neatly with a naturalistic view of the world. However, once you dig a bit deeper, the combined belief in evolution and naturalism is an irrational position to hold. This shows that the belief in evolution is a bigger problem for the naturalist (those that deny the existence of anything supernatural) as opposed to the theist. Consider the following argument. The probability that our mind which produces our beliefs is reliable based on the truth of naturalism and evolution is low. This is because evolution, which has produced our minds does not concern itself with producing true beliefs, merely with beliefs that lead to survival. The following example illustrates this point, imagine a cave man goes to get some apples from a (unbeknown to him) poisonous tree. His family come looking for him months later and find a pile of bones at the foot of the tree and conclude that drop bears have eaten him and left the bones. Based on this belief, they avoid going anywhere near these (poisonous) trees in the future, thus leading to their survival. These beliefs have resulted in their survival, even though they are false. This example shows that the truth of both naturalism and evolution give us good reason to doubt the reliability of the mind that produces all your beliefs, including the belief in naturalism and evolution. It follows that the belief in naturalism and evolution is self-defeating.

Passage Two:

The recent case of the so-called "Jihadi Brides" show the effect of intentionally giving up social membership. When they travelled to Syria to join a terrorist group, they were aware that they were breaking Australian laws against this and willingly left Australian society. They were aware of what they were giving up and chose to leave anyway. This case has been widely publicised and no doubt there are many people in Australia and abroad watching closely. Most people would claim that as the "Brides" have young children they should be given leniency, however, if they are allowed to return to Australia it will show others that they can pick what rules of society they do and don't uphold. This is an issue because a functional lawful society requires that citizens who do not follow laws be punished. As harsh as it might seem, this is why excluding "Brides" and their families from Australian society is the right thing to do. Marginalisation is a brutal but necessary evil in maintaining the value of social membership

Passage Three:

Any discussion of procreation needs to acknowledge that in some cases existence is worse than non-existence. If we accept the utilitarian position that pleasure is good, and pain is bad then we can address life as a formula of negatives, pain, and positives, pleasure. As such every life can be assessed as a total number by judging the pain and pleasure contained within it. For example, a life with great pleasure and happiness and little pain would have a high number and be considered a good life. A life that contains great pain, whether this be physical, emotional or spiritual, without commensurate pleasure can be considered a life which contains more harm than good. When compared to the fact that non-existence is a net zero of pleasure and pain the natural conclusion is that in cases of lives with great pain non-existence less harmful than existence. Since we should endeavour to create situations which bring about the least harm possible people should think carefully before bringing new life into the world.

Section Three: Extended Argument   **30 Marks**

This section contains **five** questions. Answer **one** question only. Write your answer in the spaces provided.

Suggested working time for this section is 50 minutes.

Choose **one** of the following five questions. Argue for or against the statement in the question, giving clear definitions, examples and reasons.

Question 12

Libertarianism cannot produce a good society.

Question 13

Life has no meaning other than the narrative we impose.

Question 14

Only through the scientific method can knowledge be acquired.

Question 15

Absolute moral standards do apply in all cultures.

Question 16

God cannot exist in a world which contains evil.