

PHIL20053
Space, Time and Matter
100% of the total unit mark

TIME ALLOWED: 4 DAYS

Please read the following reminders carefully.

- **You have a submission window of four days** in which to complete and submit this timed assessment. Students with Alternative Exam Arrangements (AEAs) will have a submission window of five days.
- **It is recommended that you spend no more than 9 hours to produce this assessment** rather than work for the entirety of the submission window. The submission timeframe is intended to mitigate against potential disruptions caused by the current online mode of study and is not an expected completion time.
- Indicative word counts are intended as guides to how much you might reasonably aim to write in the time we recommend you spend completing your Timed Assessment. For more information about indicative word counts, please see the document in the 'Assessment' section of the Blackboard site for this unit.
- You should use Arial, Calibri, or Times font at 12-point for your answers.
- **You may draw upon a range of resources as memory aids**, including your own notes, unit learning materials, and secondary reading.
- **You are not required to provide footnotes or a bibliography, but you are as ever to avoid plagiarism** and so you must not present the ideas or words of someone else as your own. Where you wish to refer to the ideas of particular critics, you should acknowledge those individuals by name in the body of your text and you should put any quotations within inverted commas.
- **You should complete and submit your answer in line with the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#)**. Any instances of collusion between students that the University becomes aware of will be viewed as cheating, and any other cases of academic misconduct such as contract cheating will similarly constitute a serious offence.
- No assistance with your answers should be sought from academic or Study Skills staff during this timed assessment.
- Completed answers must be submitted via this unit's Blackboard site. **It is your responsibility to ensure that you upload the correct document.**

- Extensions and late penalty policies do not apply to timed assessments, so **please ensure you submit by the submission window deadline**. We therefore recommend that you submit your answers well before the closure time in case you have internet issues or other technical problems uploading your answers.

Please contact the School of Arts (sart-philadmin@bristol.ac.uk) if you experience difficulty downloading the question paper or submitting your answer.

The deadline for submission for this timed assessment is **26 May 2022**

This paper contains **EIGHT** questions.

Answer TWO Questions

The indicative word count for **each** essay is 2000 words. Avoid significant overlap in your answers.

Only Two questions will be marked. If you attempt a question and do not wish it to be marked, delete it clearly, otherwise your first three answers will be marked.

The questions will be released on 23 May 2022 and they will be due on 26 May 2022

You have 4 DAYS to complete this assessment. You do NOT need to use the full 4 days. As a general guideline, we recommend you spend no longer than 9 hours working on this timed assessment (this includes research, reading and writing time).

Answer Two questions. Each is worth 50% of the total assessment mark.

You should refer to published studies in your answers as (Author Year) - for example (Gibson & Jordan 2019) - but you are NOT required to provide a reference list at the end.

Questions

Brief: All the questions require you to engage with two or more thinkers or periods discussed in the unit. Focus your essay on *comparative analysis and argument* rather than simple summaries of the relevant ideas.

1. Compare the Platonic idea that time is a moving image of eternity against the Aristotelian idea that time is the number of motion. Is either position more successful in addressing the theory of time?
2. What are Aristotelian natural motions? How did post-Copernicans come to reject this concept? What is gained and what is lost in this rejection of natural motions?
3. Is matter necessary for the existence of space and time? Discuss with reference to two or more thinkers.
4. What was the role of circularity and uniformity in pre- and post- Copernican astronomy? Why were these views rejected? What is gained and what is lost in the rejection of these conceptions of celestial motion?
5. What is the significance of Platonism (Neo-Platonism) for the early modern heliocentrists?
6. Compare the status of the primary-secondary quality distinction in the views about space, time and matter of two or more thinkers or schools of thought. Which view is more compelling?
7. Explain the relativity of reference frames for motion and demonstrate its importance for modern thinking about space and time. Please include discussion of Newton and one other thinker in your answer.
8. “Nature abhors a vacuum”. Discuss with reference to two or more thinkers.