PHILOSOPHY
Written examination

Monday 17 November 2008
Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)
Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>1</td>
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• 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.

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SECTION A

Question 1
According to Socrates, ‘the worst thing for a criminal is to commit crimes’. Why does he think this? Do you agree with him?

4 marks

Question 2
Explain Aristotle’s view that virtue is a kind of mean. Give one of his examples.

3 marks
Question 3
Is morality an expression of obedience? Give reasons for your response.

4 marks

Question 4
Could the contemplation of beauty be the starting point for ‘the good life’? Give reasons for your response.

4 marks

Total 15 marks
Like the girl in the cartoon, we may have strong opinions about who or what is good. But can we be sure we are right? Justify your answer.
Question 2
There is a view that good people are those who seek pleasure (their own and/or others’) as their ultimate goal. Do you agree with this view? In your answer, critically compare views expressed in at least two of the set texts.

5 marks

Question 3
What relevance do issues raised in the VCE Philosophy texts have to today’s debates about how we should live? Consider at least two issues and at least two of the set texts.

5 marks

Total 15 marks
SECTION C

Question 1
Outline and evaluate Descartes’ argument for the certainty of his existence.

5 marks

Question 2
Outline and evaluate Armstrong’s claim that science is the best means of deciding ‘the nature of man’.

4 marks
Question 3
Concerning the nature of the mind, Armstrong agrees with the Behaviourists against Descartes on one important issue. On a second important issue he agrees with Descartes against the Behaviourists.

a. On what important issue does Armstrong agree with the Behaviourists against Descartes?

b. On what important issue does Armstrong agree with Descartes against the Behaviourists?

c. Critically discuss one of these two important issues.

1 + 1 + 4 = 6 marks
Total 15 marks
SECTION D

Write an essay on one of the following topics.

Question 1
‘Knowledge is connected with the truth of things. It is also distinct from belief.’ Discuss the merits of these claims.

OR

Question 2
‘What we call Knowledge is little more than a set of beliefs waiting to be proven wrong or overthrown by a new set of beliefs.’ Discuss with reference to at least two of the following: Plato, Popper and Kuhn.

OR

Question 3
Does science provide truth? Discuss with reference to at least two of the following: Plato, Popper and Kuhn.

☐ Question 1, 2 or 3