



Victorian Certificate of Education 2013

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

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PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Friday 15 November 2013

Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)

Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A	4	4	15
B	3	3	15
C	4	4	15
D	3	1	15
			Total 60

- 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 18 pages.
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra paper to complete an answer.

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.

SECTION A

Instructions for Section A

Answer **all** four questions.

Question 1 (3 marks)

Explain the distinction that Socrates makes between expertise and mere knacks. Include **one** of his examples in your response.

Question 2 (4 marks)

‘[A] young man is not a proper hearer of lectures on political science; for he is inexperienced in the actions that occur in life, but its discussions start from these and are about these; and, further, since he tends to follow his passions, his study will be vain and unprofitable, because the end aimed at is not knowledge but action. And it makes no difference whether he is young in years or youthful in character; the defect does not depend on time, but on his living ...’

Aristotle: The Nicomachean Ethics, Ross, D (trans.), Brown, L (ed.), Oxford World’s Classics, Oxford University Press, 2009, Book 1, p. 5, ISBN: 978-0-19-921361-0
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Evaluate Aristotle’s view that young people are not fit to study political science (that is, moral philosophy), as given in the passage above.

Question 3 (4 marks)

Explain Nietzsche's metaphor of the lambs and the birds of prey.

SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

Answer **all** three questions.

To the Editor,

This election year has of course prompted much soul-searching about what Australia should stand for.

I think it is impossible to deny that humans are, by nature, fundamentally self-interested beings. I therefore feel no shame as a voter in looking to whichever political party promises me maximum profit. Indeed, it is my basic right and responsibility as an individual to pursue as much wealth, power, pleasure and leisure as my decisions in life can bring me.

I believe that any political party that either denies these basic principles of our nature or promotes other priorities is either foolish or untruthful. Much is made of what assistance Australia may be obliged to offer people of other nations. I would argue that it should be the priority of every Australian to pursue the good life for his or her self and family, and no-one else. This is how evolution created a strong human species: through survival of the fittest. Rhinos didn't evolve over thousands of years to have long horns by looking out for their short-horned neighbours! The same principle should be followed to make our country great.

We should look to some of the leaders of our great industries. They may often be motivated by self-interest, but their success has created wealth for us all. Without strong individuals like them, the weak in our society would have no hope. It is the right of such industrial leaders to capitalise on every opportunity, and their only obligation is to keep succeeding.

Yours sincerely,
Ms IM Citizen

Question 1 (5 marks)

- a. How might Aristotle respond to Citizen's view that one should pursue 'as much wealth, power, pleasure and leisure' as possible in order to achieve the good life?

2 marks

- b.** Considering the issue(s) you raised in **part a.**, with whom do you agree more – Citizen or Aristotle? Give reasons for your answer. 3 marks

Question 2 (5 marks)

- a.** Outline **one** of Socrates’s arguments in the *Gorgias* that he could offer in response to Citizen. 2 marks

- b.** To what extent do you agree with the argument you outlined in **part a.**? Give reasons for your answer. 3 marks

SECTION C

Instructions for Section C

Answer **all** four questions.

Question 1 (4 marks)

Do you agree with Hume that predictions based on experience ‘are *not* founded on reasoning, or any process of the understanding’? Justify your answer.

Hume, D, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Millican, P (ed.), Oxford World’s Classics, Oxford University Press, 2008, Section IV, Part II, p. 23, ISBN: 978-0-19-954990-0
By permission of Oxford University Press <http://www.oup.com>

Question 2 (3 marks)

Why does Popper see some theories as genuinely scientific, but others as merely ‘pseudo-scientific’?

In your response, give **one** of Popper’s examples of each kind of theory.

Question 3 (3 marks)

How does the ‘Copernican Revolution’ illustrate key aspects of Kuhn’s theory of science?

Question 4 (5 marks)

Do you think that science should aim at progress of some kind rather than truth? Discuss with some reference to Popper and Kuhn.

SECTION D

Instructions for Section D

Write an essay on **one** of the following topics.

Question 1 (15 marks)

Descartes claims that the mind is easier to know than the body.

How does he argue for this view? How convincing is his argument?

OR

Question 2 (15 marks)

How well, in your view, can materialism deal with the phenomenon of introspection? In your response, include an outline and evaluation of Armstrong on ‘the problem of consciousness’.

OR

Question 3 (15 marks)

‘The body is just as important as the mind when it comes to explaining who and what we are as humans.’

Discuss this statement, making reference to relevant views of Descartes and Armstrong.

Question No.

A script book is available from the supervisor if you need extra paper to complete your answer. Please ensure you write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover of the script book. **At the end of the examination, place the script book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.**