

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2015**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

PHILOSOPHY
Written examination

Friday 13 November 2015

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	6	6	20
B	2	2	20
C	3	1	20
			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 correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 16 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.

Question 6 (6 marks)

Singer writes that ‘we ought to give until we reach the level of marginal utility – that is, the level at which, by giving more, I would cause as much suffering to myself or my dependents as I would relieve by my gift. This would mean, of course, that one would reduce oneself to very near the material circumstances of a Bengali refugee’.

a. How would Nietzsche respond to the ideas outlined in this quotation?

2 marks

b. On the issue of our responsibility to alleviate the suffering of others, whose view – Singer’s or Nietzsche’s – is more convincing and why?

4 marks

SECTION C**Instructions for Section C**

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

‘Egoism is dangerous. In today’s culture of selfies, self-interest, self-promotion and self-absorption, we are missing the real purpose of life.’

Critically respond to this point of view. In your response, draw on relevant philosophical sources, including at least **one** of the following: Plato’s *Gorgias*, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Singer.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

‘Excessive reliance on technology is dehumanising us and compromising our capacity to be virtuous participants in society.’

Critically discuss this point of view. In your response, draw on Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. You may also refer to other relevant philosophical sources, such as Plato’s *Gorgias*, Nietzsche, Singer.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

‘We are mistaken if we think consumerist culture shows what it means to live lives of true wealth and freedom.’

Critically discuss this point of view. In your response, draw on relevant philosophical sources, including at least **one** of the following: Plato’s *Gorgias*, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Singer.

