

Victorian Certificate of Education 2015

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

Letter

**STUDENT NUMBER** 

# 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

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
А	6	6	20
В	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.

# **SECTION A**

# **Instructions for Section A**

Answer all **six** questions.

# **Question 1** (1 mark)

Why does Armstrong think that the views of scientists on the nature of the mind should be accepted?

# Question 2 (3 marks)

Explain Armstrong's account of consciousness and perception, including his example of driving a car.



### **Question 3** (2 marks)

How does Locke use the example of the separated finger to support his view on personal identity?

### Question 4 (4 marks)

Explain **one** point of difference and **one** point of similarity between Locke's and Hume's views on the relationship between memory and personal identity.

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### **Question 5** (4 marks)

According to Socrates, 'doing wrong is more contemptible than suffering wrong'.

Why does Socrates think this? 1 mark a. Do you agree with his view? Why or why not? 3 marks b.

# 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'. How would Nietzsche respond to the ideas outlined in this quotation? 2 marks a. 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

**Question 6** (6 marks)

# **SECTION B**

# **Instructions for Section B**

Answer **both** questions.

### Question 1 (10 marks)

Outline **one** of Socrates's arguments and **one** of Descartes's arguments that reach conclusions about the relationship between the mind or psyche and the body. How plausible are these arguments in light of **one or more** developments in modern science?



### Question 2 (10 marks)

Outline and evaluate the position(s) on personal identity presented by Nagasena and/or Santideva. In your response, discuss the implications for **one** relevant contemporary debate.

# **SECTION C**

### **Instructions for Section C**

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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.

Question No.





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Clearly number all responses in this space.


An answer 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 answer book. At the end of the examination, place the answer book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.

