

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2014**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

PHILOSOPHY
Written examination

Friday 14 November 2014

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	5	5	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 white out liquid/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 **five** questions.

Question 1 (4 marks)

‘... the soul resembles the divine, the body the mortal.’

How does Socrates support this claim made by Cebes?

Question 2 (6 marks)

- a.** Explain Nagasena's example of the stolen mangoes. 2 marks

- b.** Compare Nagasena's view of the self to either Santideva's or Hume's. 4 marks

Question 3 (3 marks)

Callicles holds that the good life is one of pleasure.

Outline **one** of the arguments that Socrates gives in response.

Question 4 (3 marks)

Although tempted to act wrongly, someone may nevertheless do the right thing.

With reference to **one** of the virtues recognised by Aristotle, explain how he would judge this person.

Question 5 (4 marks)

- a. Singer refers briefly to the principle that ‘we are morally entitled to give greater weight to our own interests and purposes simply because they are our own’.

How does he respond to this principle, which he attributes to John Arthur?

2 marks

- b. What would Nietzsche think of the above principle?

2 marks

SECTION B

Instructions for Section B

Answer **both** questions.

Question 1 (10 marks)

Explain and evaluate Descartes's example of the piece of wax, and what he concludes from it. In your response, refer to how Armstrong might respond to Descartes's argument about the wax.

Question 2 (10 marks)

Outline and evaluate Locke’s account of personal identity, making reference to at least **one** of his thought experiments.

SECTION C**Instructions for Section C**

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

‘From biomedical developments to advances in robotics, most of our use of modern technology is fundamentally selfish and, therefore, morally corrupt.’

Critically discuss this claim. 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)

Abigail: How can you work for a company like that? You know their appalling record in human trafficking and slave labour!

Brock: They’re paying me a massive salary for a few easy hours a week. I’ll get rich quick while studying. I can always use my wealth and power to change the world for the better later on.

Abigail: But don’t you think it’s wrong for you to get ahead on the profits of injustice? Don’t you have a responsibility to the people this company has enslaved in the developing world?

Brock: We all have to do what we can to be happy and successful. If I don’t take this opportunity, someone else will. And not taking this job won’t put an end to human slavery.

Critically respond to **one or more** issues raised by the discussion in the dialogue above. In your response, draw on relevant philosophical sources, including at least **one** of the following: Plato’s *Gorgias*, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Singer.

OR**Question 3** (20 marks)

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Source: James Adonis, ‘A frenzy of consumerism’, *The Age*, 7 December 2012

Critically discuss at least **one** of the issues raised in the passage above, concerning the good life. In your response, draw on relevant philosophical sources, including at least **one** of the following: Plato’s *Gorgias*, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Singer.

Question No.
