2010 Senior External Examination

Philosophy & Reason
Paper Two — Question book

Friday 5 November 2010
1:15 pm to 4:25 pm

Time allowed
- Perusal time: 10 minutes
- Working time: 3 hours

Examination materials provided
- Paper Two — Question book
- Paper Two — Response book

Equipment allowed
- QSA-approved equipment

Directions
You may write in this book during perusal time.
Paper Two has two parts:
- Part A — Critical Reasoning
- Part B — Philosophy

Attempt all questions in Part A.
In Part B, you must attempt Question 1 and one other question.

Suggested time allocation
- Part A: 50 minutes
- Part B: 2 hours (1 hour per essay)

The suggested time allocation allows 10 minutes for checking responses.

Assessment
Assessment standards are at the end of this book.

After the examination session
Take this book when you leave.
Planning space
Part A — Critical Reasoning

Part A has five questions. Attempt all questions.

Analyse the reasoning employed in each of the following arguments. In your analysis:

• name any identifiable fallacy or fallacies
• explain any error or errors in reasoning used, with reference to the text
• name any inductive argument correctly used
• explain such correct reasoning, with reference to the text.

Your response to each question should be 50–100 words in length.

Write your responses in the response book.

Suggested time allocation: 50 minutes.

Question 1

Letters to the editor

Ground ex-MPs

FORMER federal politicians racked up $1.74 million in free domestic air travel in 2008–2009 (The Courier-Mail, 18 January). Why has it taken so long for the Federal Government to review this pillaging of the public purse? How long before we can expect this looting to cease?

It’s not as if these former MPs are impoverished upon leaving the Parliament, is it? Generous superannuation schemes, courtesy of the taxpayer, and a plethora of business opportunities that inevitably await them in their retirement would suggest they could afford to pay their own airfares.

One way farmers ensure their pork is lean is to not replenish the food trough so often. Meanwhile, we know that pigs are happy wallowing around in the mud, particularly when it’s the taxpayer that ends up looking like the pork chop.

Name withheld

The Courier-Mail,

19 January 2010

Part A continues overleaf
Question 2

Letters to the editor

Christian countries first to help

IT WAS interesting to see the countries that have been supporting the disaster in Haiti. The countries mentioned came from the western world with its Judeo-Christian background. The US, which is constantly criticised, was the first and largest provider of aid. On the other hand, countries with a different tradition were missing. Could it be that Christianity emphasises that true religion is looking after widows and orphans?

Name withheld
Sunshine Coast Daily,
16 January 2010

Question 3

The “Buffalo Theory” on the effect of alcohol consumption on the brain:

“Well, you see Norm, it’s like this. A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it’s the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

“In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

“And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.”

Question 4

If the government’s “Equal Opportunities for Women” policy had been successful, there would be the same number of women as men in Parliament by now. There are not the same number of women as men in Parliament, so the policy obviously was not a success.

Question 5

One in three children lives in a home with a single parent. I am only going to have two children, as I don’t want to get divorced.

End of Part A
Planning space
Part B — Philosophy

Part B has five questions. Attempt two questions, one of which must be Question 1:

- Question 1 — respond in essay form to either Question 1A or Question 1B
- Questions 2 to 5 — respond in essay form to one question of your choice.

Each response should be approximately 600 words in length.

Write your responses in the response book.

Suggested time allocation: 2 hours (1 hour per essay).

Question 1 — Ethics/Moral philosophy

Either

a.

**Jolie visits Haitian quake refugees**

*Posted Tue Feb 9, 2010 12:49pm AEDT*

Screen star Angelina Jolie has visited Haitian children being treated in the neighbouring Dominican Republic after the devastating earthquake in their homeland killed more than 200000 people.

Oscar-winner Jolie toured the paediatric wing of Dario Contreras Hospital in Santo Domingo, a leading local trauma hospital, with its director Hector Quezada, the hospital said.

Jolie, who serves as a goodwill ambassador for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF, was also joined by Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, a son of Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa.

The actress and her partner, actor Brad Pitt, donated $1 million to Doctors Without Borders in Haiti following the January 12 quake, the worst natural disaster on record in the Americas.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Evaluate the morality of Angelina Jolie’s actions, as viewed by an adherent to the moral philosophy of Immanuel Kant.

or

b.

Suppose that Barack Obama, the President of the United States and the winner of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, lies in hospital in urgent need of a heart transplant. By sheer coincidence a homeless man who has no family, is in perfect health and is a perfect tissue match for Obama, lies sleeping in the waiting room downstairs. The transplant surgeon suggests that the homeless man could be anaesthetised while he sleeps (his death will be completely painless and he will be completely unaware of what is happening) and his heart used to save the life of Obama.

Discuss how this situation would be resolved by an Act Utilitarian. How, if at all, would a Rule Utilitarian resolve it differently?
Question 2 — Philosophy of science

No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong.
A quotation widely attributed to Albert Einstein

Outline the traditional Problem of Induction and, through a discussion of at least one well-known “solution”, assess the relevance of the “problem” to science.

Question 3 — Philosophy of religion

Either

a. Outline one of the traditional arguments for the existence of God. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses.

or

b. Outline the argument from the Problem of Evil against the existence of God. Discuss the problem, presenting and evaluating some of the typical philosophical responses.

Question 4 — Social and political philosophy

“A Labor vision of government needs to be of an active and interventionist government but one that is active and interventionist on those issues that will make a long term difference. We should not be today’s managers and appeasers. We should be the builders of a better tomorrow.”

“The Role of Government — A Labor View for 2005”
Julia Gillard, 2005 Jim Cairns Memorial Lecture, 23 August 2005

To what extent should the role of government include the promotion of what is “good” for society through intervention in individual liberties? Your response must include discussion of at least one well-known political philosophy.

Question 5 — Philosophy of mind

How would an acceptance of the philosophical concept of determinism affect one’s attitude towards criminal and/or moral responsibility? Justify your response with reference to the work of at least one well-known philosopher.

End of Part B

End of Paper Two
### Assessment standards for Paper Two derived from the 2004 senior external syllabus for Philosophy & Reason

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>The candidate demonstrates accurate recall and extensive understanding of a comprehensive range of concepts, ideas, procedures and principles. Occasional minor errors may be made, but do not indicate fundamental misunderstandings.</td>
<td>The candidate demonstrates accurate recall and understanding of a range of concepts, ideas, procedures and principles.</td>
<td>The candidate recalls and describes most concepts, ideas, procedures and principles.</td>
<td>The candidate recalls and describes some concepts, ideas, procedures and principles.</td>
<td>The candidate describes few concepts, ideas, procedures and principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>The candidate: • classifies and evaluates a wide range of simple and complex arguments, both sourced and artificial, and constructs well-supported arguments drawing on a wide range of inductive skills • outlines, analyses and evaluates philosophical theories, by: – explaining intrinsic concepts – explaining simple and complex relationships within and between theories – discerning and describing the application of theories in different contexts (including in the formulation of own and others’ views).</td>
<td>The candidate: • classifies and evaluates a range of simple and complex arguments, both sourced and artificial, and constructs, with some support, arguments that draw on a range of inductive skills • outlines, analyses and evaluates philosophical theories, by explaining: – most intrinsic concepts – simple (and some complex) relationships within and between theories.</td>
<td>The candidate: • classifies and evaluates simple arguments, and constructs arguments drawing on some inductive skills • outlines philosophical theories, and explains primary concepts.</td>
<td>The candidate: • classifies some simple arguments; few inductive skills are evident • describes some primary philosophical concepts.</td>
<td>The candidate: • occasionally classifies some simple arguments • describes very few philosophical concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criterion</td>
<td>Standard E</td>
<td>Standard D</td>
<td>Standard C</td>
<td>Standard B</td>
<td>Standard A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>The candidate: • consistently and accurately employs discriminating vocabulary, and adheres to the conventions of language • organises and presents information cogently and communicates both evident and implied meaning effectively</td>
<td>The candidate: • makes inconsistent and inaccurate choices of basic vocabulary and conventions of language • presents disjointed information and descriptions</td>
<td>The candidate: • usually employs appropriate vocabulary and conventions of language • organises and presents information so that meaning is usually evident</td>
<td>The candidate: • makes some appropriate choices of vocabulary, and adheres some conventions of language • presents information and produces explanations that lack detail and clarity.</td>
<td>The candidate: • consistently employs appropriate vocabulary, and adheres to the conventions of language • organises and presents information coherently, and communicates meaning effectively • produces clear and purposeful explanations, descriptions, arguments, and justifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are adequate to convey intention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>produces explanations, arguments, and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments


*Sunshine Coast Daily*, 16 January 2010, Sunshine Coast Newspaper Co. Pty Ltd, Queensland.


> Every reasonable effort has been made to contact owners of copyright material. We would be pleased to hear from any copyright owner who has been omitted or incorrectly acknowledged.