Supervised written assessment: Short response — Society, the individual and political philosophy (Year 11)

This sample is intended to inform the design of assessment instruments in the senior phase of learning. It highlights the qualities of student work and the match to the syllabus standards.

Criteria assessed

- Knowledge
- Application
- Communication

Assessment instrument

The response presented in this sample is in response to assessment tasks.

Unit 13: Society and the individual

Topic 6: Social and political philosophy

Part 1: Short response items

Briefly define the following political terms:
1. Political Freedom
2. The State
3. Democracy.

Part 2: Extended response

1. “Power and authority are two completely different things.” Do you agree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.
2. Compare and contrast a democracy and a monarchy.
3. To what extent is anarchism viable in a modern society?
4. Explain and illustrate what is meant by “rights” in a political context.

Part 3: Political or moral essay response

“The responsibility of the state is to provide protection for the individual, and nothing else.” Discuss this statement with reference to political systems we have studied.
### Instrument-specific standards matrix

Student responses have been matched to instrument-specific standards matrix; those which best describe the student work in this sample are shown below. For more information about the syllabus dimensions and standards descriptors, see [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/2057.html#assessment](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/2057.html#assessment).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Standard A</th>
<th>Standard C</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>The student has:</td>
<td>The student has:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>accurate recall</strong> and <strong>extensive understanding</strong> of a comprehensive range of concepts, ideas, procedures and principles. Occasional minor errors may be made, but do not indicate fundamental misunderstandings.</td>
<td>• <strong>recall and describes</strong> most concepts, ideas, procedures and principles.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
<td>The student:</td>
<td>The student:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• applies <strong>appropriate</strong> techniques and procedures of deductive reasoning with <strong>facility and accuracy</strong> to <strong>simple and complex</strong> tasks</td>
<td>• uses <strong>prescribed</strong> techniques and procedures of deductive reasoning in most <strong>simple</strong> tasks and applies them <strong>with accuracy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• classifies and evaluates a wide range of <strong>simple and complex</strong> arguments, both sourced and artificial, and constructs <strong>well-supported</strong> arguments drawing on <strong>a wide range of inductive skills</strong></td>
<td>• classifies and evaluates <strong>simple</strong> arguments, and constructs arguments drawing on some <strong>inductive skills</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• outlines, analyses and evaluates philosophical theories by:</td>
<td>• outlines philosophical theories, and <strong>explains</strong> primary concepts.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>explaining</strong> intrinsic concepts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <strong>explaining</strong> simple and complex relationships within and between theories</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- discerning and describing the <strong>application</strong> of theories in different contexts (including the formulation of own and others' views)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>The student:</td>
<td>The student:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• <strong>consistently and accurately</strong> employs discriminating vocabulary, and adheres to the conventions of language</td>
<td>• usually employs <strong>appropriate</strong> vocabulary and conventions of language</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• <strong>consistently organises and presents</strong> information logically and coherently, and communicates both evident and implied meaning <strong>effectively</strong></td>
<td>• organises and presents information so that meaning is usually evident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• produces <strong>explanations, descriptions, arguments and justifications</strong> that are <strong>precise, pertinent and purposeful</strong></td>
<td>• produces <strong>explanations, descriptions and argument</strong> that are <strong>adequate to convey</strong> intention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Colour highlights have been used in the table to emphasise the qualities that discriminate between the standards.

**Key:**
- **Cognition words**
- **Qualifiers**
- **Additional descriptors or linking words**
Student response — Standard A

The annotations show the match to the instrument-specific standards.

Comments
The responses demonstrate:

Knowledge
- **accurate recall of concepts**

Knowledge
- **extensive understanding of concepts.**

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**Student's response**

**Year 11 Philosophy**
**Examination Semester 2 2011**

Part 1 – Briefly define the following terms.

**Politics**

1. **Political Freedom**

   Political freedom refers to an absence of interference with the sovereignty of an individual by the use of coercion or aggression. In a free society, individuals would have full dominion over their public and private lives.

2. **The State**

   The state is a political association with effective sovereignty of an area. It also refers to institutions that claim the authority to create laws that govern the exercise of coercive violence of the people, of the society in the territory.

   The political sovereignty of a state is often determined by whether it has internal and external power.

   3. **Democracy**

   A democracy is a form of government by which political sovereignty is restrained by the people, and exercised by citizens. In modern times, the term democracy refers to a political system in which free members of society have the opportunity to vote for and elect representatives to represent them in the state, thus giving them a voice in parliament.
Part 2 – Extended answers. Answer all the questions.

Politics

1. “Power and Authority are two completely different things.” Do you agree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.

   Personally, I agree with the statement "Power and Authority are two completely different things." However, I believe one cannot have authority without having power. This is because whilst power is the ability to achieve certain ends (often through force or threat of force), authority is having the legitimate, justified right to issue commands, intelligence, or expecting to influence such power. For example, a mob may have the power to punish a guilty man, however, money would believe the court to have the authority to sentence.

2. Compare and contrast a democracy and a monarchy.

   A democracy is a form of government originating in Ancient Greece, by which political sovereignty is restrained by the people and exercised by citizens. In modern times, the term democracy refers to a political system in which individuals have a voice in the processes through their elected representatives. However, while democracy means rule by many, monarchy can be translated to rule by one. Unlike a democracy where citizens are able to elect their government, a monarchy is a system of government in which a single individual or family rules as head of state, often for life, although this person is also in a democracy. In a democracy, the elected members are regularly replaced, while in a monarchy, the monarch is considered wholly or set apart from society.
3. To what extent is anarchism viable in a modern society?

Anarchism is a political doctrine that believes that in an state of nature, humanity would flourish. It believes that as a society, we would be able to resolve any problem through rational debate, and that any single individual possessing self-interest and inherent tendencies would be cared for and stabilized by the group, as opposed to punished by the state. However, there have been many critiques that such a system could not be viable in a modern society.

Many have argued that the idea is too optimistic about how society functions, and that such human emotions and desires are complex, and that, therefore, it would not work in an actual society.

4. Explain and illustrate what is meant by “rights” in a political context.

The term “rights” refers to individuals’ entitlements or claims to certain things, such as freedom of speech or the right to property. In a political context, rights refer to the natural entitlements that must be respected by the state and recognized from society.

For example, it is recognized that humans have a right to freedom of speech, and hence, if an individual wishes to broadcast their views or the news about the government’s interference with the natural rights of an individual (such as broadcast of aibel)
Part 3: Essay choice of either political or moral question

“The responsibly of the state is to provide protection for the individual, and nothing else.”

Discuss this statement with reference to political systems we have studied.

"The responsibility of the state is to provide protection for the individual, and nothing else." This statement has been debated by many opposing conflicting political systems and ideas regarding what is the government should provide its citizens. For philosopher Hobbes, Locke, agreed with such statement, arguing that "The brutality of our state of nature forces us to enter into a social contract where by we must be provided with protection of our lives more to function as a stable society. In addition, despite disagreeing with that our state of nature is one of chaos, to philosophers Locke, Bentham agreed that we ultimately enter into a social contract to obtain the protection of our natural rights. However, other political systems, including, for philosophers utilitarian, disagreed with this statement, denouncing that the nature of the state also has the responsibility to people us with basic needs, such as education, state-welfare and state transport.

Philosopher Hobbes agreed that it was the responsibility of the state to provide its citizens with protection for the grounded and nothing else, emphasizing the importance of the reason we enter into a social contract. Hobbes agreed that the state of nature, or happiness..."
### Comments

**Communication**
- Presents information cogently and coherently, and communicates implied meaning effectively.

**Knowledge**
- Accurately recalls and extensively understands a comprehensive range of concepts, ideas.

**Application**
- Analyses philosophical theories by:
  - discerning and describing the application of theories in different contexts.

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This idea of what society would be like without a state, was a state of chaos, where no one was a self-indulgent egoist who forgot, with normally violent tendencies. He argued that we have therefore agreed to enter into a social contract, so long as it provided us with the security protection of our lives. This, he put forth, would allow us to achieve a stable society, one with this allowing for the organized economy and acceptable standards of conduct throughout society. According to Hobbes, debased that the state most truly provided protection of life in order for man to achieve a more stable functioning society.

In addition, although disagreeing with Hobbes’s claim to our state of nature, Locke also concluded that it is the responsibility of the state to provide society with protection. Locke maintained that society, not the government, should establish laws in order to protect.

Locke was raised by a poor farmer during the Stuart period, and hence his ideas of the state of nature reflect his current religious views. Locke proposed that in one state of Nature, man is born free and equal, and is able to engage in cooperation with other people because all men are naturally free, equal and independent.

These basic freedoms are the right to property, freedom, and life.
Comments

Application

Analyses philosophical theories by:

- **explaining complex relationships between theories**

- **discerning application of theories in different contexts.**

Communication

Produces arguments and justifications that are precise, pertinent and purposeful.

He oblied respect the rights of other. However, Locke elaborated their main enter into a state at contract to ensure the protection of such rights from the individuals possessing slightly self-indulgent, egotistical tendencies. Therefore, according to Locke, the government required to provide protection of the rights of its citizens from any individual who threaten to disrupt our God given entitlements.

However, here one those who disagree with the statement, arguing that poverty, the government and harder work to ensure a basic standard of living for its citizens. This is the belief of liberalism, which argues that the state should provide its citizens with the basic requirements for a prosperous society, including state education and provision of equal opportunities to future generations. State welfare system to provide economic help to who cannot support themselves.

End of Paper
Consistently and accurately employs discriminating vocabulary, and adheres to the conventions of language.

Although according to philosopher Hobbes, in the "state of nature" humans trust the government only so as to prevent us with protection of life to enable us to live in a stable society. Similarly, Locke argues her on natural law provides us with right that the government has to create rule and protect. However, some political doctrines as liberalism argue that community rules require other the state has how the duty to provide the state with such basic needs as education and social welfare.
Student response — Standard C

The annotations show the match to the instrument-specific standards.

Comments

Knowledge

Recalls and describes most concepts

Year 11 Philosophy
Examination Semester 2 2011

Part 1 – Briefly define the following terms.

Politics

1. Political Freedom
   Political freedom in the absence of any influence or
   direction from authority figures, although these figures can still
   guide and actions which component

2. The State
   The state is an authoritative body that makes
   decisions regarding the population and the government
   can be elected democratically or may be
   appointed generally to decisions that will benefit the greater good of the people, why?

3. Democracy
   A system of government chosen by the population
   through means of an election. If a democracy
   were expanding and vote to make decisions that
   will appeal to the majority of the political population
Part 2 - Extended answers. Answer all the questions.

Politics

1. “Power and Authority are two completely different things.” Do you agree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.

   Yes, I do. Power implies force, not too much thought going behind the action. Authority implies the right to apply force, everyone can apply force but not everyone may use it. Power may be obtained by a group, but authority may only be held by one person. This singular person, however, can be stronger or more influential than an hundred individuals - because they have authority through people respect them enough to extract them with important decisions and the implementation of ethical ideas.

2. Compare and contrast a democracy and a monarchy.

   The role in a democracy is elected by the entire population whereas the leader in a monarchy is usually appointed because of bloodline. Both democracies and monarchies act in the best interest of the majority and equally demand one must be consulted with a large group of people - especially in some modern examples of republics. Both require some kind of loyalty and respect, although monarchies are born on becoming dictatorships sometimes.
3. To what extent is anarchism viable in a modern society?

Lack of all visible force, no modern society could exist. Some authority to regulate actions and ensure societal harmony would not be able to function safely without political authority. While there would be some responsible citizens who would "do the right thing," it would not last for long. Something would eventually be destroyed and habe valued triviality aside unnecessarily be lost.

4. Explain and illustrate what is meant by "rights" in a political context.

A right is the ability to do or obtain something or act in a certain way without suffering any penalty. Politically, you have the right to speak freely, believe what you like, and behave as you wish as long as it adheres to society's laws and understandings.
Part 3 — Essay choice of either political or moral question.

“...The responsibly of the state is to provide protection for the individual, and nothing else."

Discuss with reference to political systems we have studied.

The state’s main responsibility is definitely to provide protection or security for the citizen as a whole and for individuals. While the most effective way to work is to be what is in the best interests of the majority, the state cannot use “blanket false solutions”. These solutions are ineffective and develop holes very quickly as they do not consider carefully the situations and needs of each individual. Every state deals with issues of public protection differently and largely ineffectively in some political regimes. For example, in an anarchy there is no protection for an individual, as there is no-one to protect them. Protection in a centralized society is also very ineffectual.
Democratic and fascist societies represent the last extreme ends of the spectrum. A democratic state is best equipped to provide protection for its citizens, as the authority figures will make decisions based on their beliefs and values, which will work practically instead of simply sounding like it will work on paper. A fascist state will be more aggressive in its actions, but it will not be able to provide adequate protection for the citizens. The state responsibility to provide protection is to ensure the well-being and stability of the citizens, which includes providing them with a variety of benefits such as health care, education, and security. These benefits are essential for the well-being of the citizens and their families, and they help to ensure that everyone is safe and secure. While a state's main responsibility is to provide protection, it is not the state's sole responsibility. It must also provide for the needs and moral values of all citizens, including the safety and harmony of all involved, and it must provide education for the best possible future and the best inter- and intra-societal relations to ensure a secure protected society. If a state is unable to fulfill all of these responsibilities properly, protection should be a major concern.
The ability to respect the rights of others. However, Locke debated that man enters into a state or contract to ensure the protection of such rights from individuals possessing slightly self-indulgent, egotistic cell tendencies. Therefore, according to Locke, the generally required to provide protection of the rights of its citizens from any individuals who threaten to disrupt our God given entitlements.

However, here are those who disagree with the statement, arguing that protecting the government also has the ability to ensure a basic standard of living for its citizens. This is the belief of liberalism, which argues that the state should provide its citizens with the basic necessities for a prosperous society, including state education, health care, and a welfare system. To provide economic help so that no one cannot support themselves. Therefore, another such political does argue an intervention program that the state should only provide protection, believing that it should also provide such basics services as state education, and a state welfare system.

Here, it is evident that although some argue that this topic is one of great debate.

Acknowledgments

The QSA acknowledges the contribution of Somerset College in the preparation of this document.