**Student Name:** **Weight: 40%**

**Student ID:**  **Marks:** /56

# Research Paper

# Learning Outcome

Evaluate the extent to which at least one major philosophical theory or approach compares with a philosophical position of your own.

# Purpose

The purpose of this paper is for you to evaluate a philosophical question of your choice. You will apply the concepts from this course to thoroughly represent and then suggest a solution to a major philosophical issue.

# Instructions

1. Describe two competing views on a philosophical issue, and then argue for the one you think is superior.
2. This is an individual assignment to be completed as homework.
3. The paper should be between four and six pages long, double-spaced, Arial 12 pt.
4. The due date will be posted on the course schedule.

# Marking Criteria

There are 14 elements to be marked on the research paper, each worth up to four marks for 56 available.

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| **Overall Evaluation** | | | | |
|  | **EXCELLENT**  **(80 – 100%: A)** | **PROFICIENT**  **(70 – 79%: B)** | **COMPETENT**  **(60 – 69%: C)** | **LIMITED**  **(50 – 59%: D)** |
| **Student shows …** | …an exemplary understanding of the material | …a substantial understanding of the material | …a basic understanding of the material | …a marginal understanding of the material |
|  | | | | |
| **Grammar and Mechanics** | | | | |
|  | **EXCELLENT**  **(80 – 100%: A)** | **PROFICIENT**  **(70 – 79%: B)** | **COMPETENT**  **(60 – 69%: C)** | **LIMITED**  **(50 – 59%: D)** |
| **The assignment has …** | …no (or very few) mechanical or grammatical errors | …a few mechanical or grammatical errors | …several mechanical or grammatical errors | …frequent mechanical or grammatical errors |
| **Content** | | | | |
|  | **EXCELLENT**  **(80 – 100%: A)** | **PROFICIENT**  **(70 – 79%: B)** | **COMPETENT**  **(60 – 69%: C)** | **LIMITED**  **(50 – 59%: D)** |
| **This assignment displays…** | ...content that is always appropriate for the topic and audience | …content that is mostly appropriate for the topic and audience | …content that is sometimes appropriate for the topic and audience | …content that is seldom appropriate for the topic and audience |
| **This assignment displays…** | …content that shows developed critical thinking skills | …content that shows developing critical thinking skills | …content that shows limited critical thinking skills | …content that shows very limited critical thinking skills |
| **This assignment displays…** | …content that shows effective problem solving skills | …content that shows some effective problem solving skills | …content that shows some limited problem solving skills | …content that shows some very limited problem solving skills |
| **This assignment displays…** | …content that defines fallacious reasoning | …content that identifies fallacious reasoning | …content that questions fallacious reasoning | …content that ignores fallacious reasoning |
| **This assignment displays…** | … content is always supported by fact-based research (a minimum of eight contemporary sources: research published after 2000) | … content is mostly supported by fact-based research (a minimum of six contemporary sources: research published after 2000) | … content is sometimes supported by fact-based research (a minimum of four contemporary sources: research published after 2000) | … content is rarely supported by fact-based research (a minimum of two contemporary sources: research published after 2000) |
| **This assignment displays…** | …content that is always appropriated and correctly cited | …content that is mostly appropriated and correctly cited | …content that is sometimes appropriated and correctly cited | …content that is rarely appropriated and correctly cited |

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| **Organization** | | | | |
|  | **EXCELLENT**  **(80 – 100%: A)** | **PROFICIENT**  **(70 – 79%: B)** | **COMPETENT**  **(60 – 69%: C)** | **LIMITED**  **(50 – 59%: D)** |
| **This assignment has …** | …logical organization throughout | …logical organization most of the time; there are a few errors | …logical organization some of the time; there are frequent errors | …little logical organization; there are many errors |
| **This assignment has …** | …a clear, thesis/central purpose that is maintained throughout | …a clear, thesis/central purpose that is mostly maintained throughout | …a thesis/central purpose, but reader has to work to find it and it is not clearly maintained throughout | …little evidence of a thesis/central purpose |
| **This assignment has …** | … arguments always supported by accurate and well-presented evidence | … arguments mostly supported by accurate and well-presented evidence | … arguments sometimes supported by accurate and well-presented evidence | … arguments rarely supported by accurate and well-presented evidence |
| **This assignment has …** | … topic sentences that provide direction and draw the reader into paragraphs | … topic sentences that provide direction within paragraphs most of the time | … topic sentences that are present, but that do not always provide the best direction for the paragraphs | …topic sentences are not always present; when they are, they do not always provide the best direction |
| **This assignment has …** | … transitions that provide coherence throughout | …many transitions that provide coherence | …some transitions that provide coherence | …few transitions that provide coherence |
| **This assignment has …** | …a tone that is always appropriate for the topic and audience | …a tone that is mostly appropriate for the topic and audience | …a tone that is sometimes appropriate for the topic and audience | …a tone that is sometimes inappropriate for the topic and audience |