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EE/RPPF

For use from May/November 2018

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Candidate personal code

Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

Candidate: This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: The first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed, and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work. The three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE for first assessment May 2018. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under Criterion E.

Supervisor: You must have three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other check-in sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each reflection session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must sign and date this form.

First reflection session

Candidate comments:

Coming from a family of Christian believers, I have knowledge in religious philosophical issues. One issue that sparks my curiosity is how evil is compatible with a powerful God who desires good, and I realize that it is a question many believers have. If I can write an extended essay, I could potentially find an answer to the problem or at least discover viewpoints that other religious philosophers would have on this important issue. Through researching eBooks resources online, I know that this problem is formally recognized as the Logical Problem of Evil and that Alvin Plantinga is a theist philosopher who has a possible answer to this issue. J.L. Mackie is an atheist philosopher that argues with Plantinga's free will defense according to encyclopedias, and there are books that each philosopher has written as responses and criticisms to each other's ideas. After talking to my mentor, I realize that I can access books in which they discuss the defense through universities, and I should compare the two philosophers in their argument and refutation for my research question.

Date:

Supervisor initials:



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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

I am nearly finished with the majority of my research which are from books and the online PDF sources of both philosophers. I have several problems in understanding the definitions and concepts of many philosophical concepts, but online encyclopedias provide definitions that are helpful to gain a thorough understanding. In addition, writing down key points as the philosopher states an argument allows me to have a visual diagram that helps in understanding the argument. After the meeting, I realize the need to focus my own philosophy and synthesis of ideas. A challenge is that research material indicates that disparity of the definitions from the philosophers leads to disagreement. However, I realize that forming a conclusion from this aspect could allow me to not only synthesize, but also provide my views on their arguments which would strengthen my analysis.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

Final reflection - Viva voce

Candidate comments:

Though I did not find a clear-cut answer to the problem, I have been able to confirm and agree and disagree with the points put forth by both philosophers. I was personally surprised at how much I understood and agreed with the atheist philosopher despite his stance on issues, but providing my counterclaims to both religious arguments helped me strengthen my argument. As for learning about myself, I was able to discover that I am analytical in my research because I employed strategies such as diagrams that allowed me to note the details of arguments. Therefore, I was able to respond to the setback of understanding complicated philosophy texts and language through my own methods. Though I referred to questions raised by the logical problem, an improvement that I could make is to delve into those questions and see if the philosophers can then come to consensus. Overall, I was able to find more perspectives in a topic that I have been curious about for some time and find valuable methods to break down information for research.

Date:

Supervisor initials:

Supervisor comments:

Supervisor: *By submitting this candidate work for assessment, you are taking responsibility for its authenticity. No piece of candidate work should be uploaded/submitted to the e-Coursework system if its authenticity is in doubt or if contradictory comments are added to this form. If your text in the box below raises any doubt on the authenticity of the work, this component will not be assessed.*

The student started the research process with many questions, and a certain amount of uncertainty regarding writing in philosophy. Despite her not having formal philosophical training, and their doubts, the student wrote a very impressive essay. Their paper demonstrates an understanding of very complex philosophical material, which speaks to her dedication to her research. In our final meeting, I asked the student about their level of understanding of the arguments that she analyzed, and she said that she read her primary sources over and over again in order to truly understand their meaning. This discipline to understanding shows in the work that the student has produced. The student maintained a very good pace for her writing, working on outlines and drafts much earlier than other EE students. This organization helped her in the EE process, as she was reviewing and editing the final draft of her paper much earlier than the designated due date. I think that the student research and writing have been exemplary, and it has been an honor working with such a dedicated and persistent student.

