

## PHILOSOPHY 3B Term 4 Exam Essay Question NOVEMBER 2020

### TOPIC:

Selecting from the prescribed readings in Oreskes [2019], defend the three strongest reasons for trusting science and the three strongest reasons for not trusting science. Thereafter, present your considered judgement, supported by arguments, on how far we should trust science. Focus this part of your essay on the following question: To what extent, and why, can science play a trustworthy role during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Present your results in a coherent philosophical essay, done according to the standards of the guidelines for philosophy essay writing [Wolff et al] posted on Blackboard.

### Rubric [on Blackboard] for marking the test & exam essays:

**Introduction:** What are the significance, context, and background of the issue you focus on? What is the plan of your essay? [5]

**Contents:** Elements / ideas used for contents: Focus on the important themes (the main points) in the readings; show that you know the prescribed readings in depth; give definitions where appropriate; clearly outline the arguments you present. [40]

**Formulation and Argumentation:** Order the contents into a coherent argument: Offer clear expositions of ideas and arguments; make your essay well organized; show the relationships between sections & themes; order the contents systematically. [30]

**Independent thinking:** Demonstrate that you think for yourself: Show your independent judgement by pointing out what is good or bad, what must be left behind and what must be taken forward. Give reasons for your judgement. [20]

**Conclusion:** Conclude the essay properly: Give a brief overview. State the significance, value, or importance of what you have argued for in your essay. [5]

**Commented [MZ1]:** The use of (a) and (b) ... might be helpful here so students know exactly what should be added.

**Commented [MV2R1]:** agreed

**Commented [SA3]:** Nice topic!

**Commented [MZ4R3]:** Agreed.

**Commented [MV5R3]:** ditto

**Commented [MZ6]:** Year?

**Commented [BC7]:** Are they required to do formal referencing for this essay?

**Commented [LH8R7]:** Hi Catherine, Thanks for the reminder. In the case of the first years, I will encourage them to give proper references to all their sources. In the case of the third years, I will require it. I will send the students an email to specify the requirements and attach Ronel's UJ Library guide.