

2021 AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILOSOPHY PHILOSOTHON

**(AAPP)**

# ORGANISING TEACHERS / FACILITATORS

**Information Kit**

The following information is for organising teachers participating the 2021 Australasian Philosothon. In conducting the Philosothon we hope to raise the profile of Philosophy and Ethics in secondary schools. This is an important initiative, and we thank you for agreeing to be a part of it.

Schools are entering teams of eight students, schools will need to field a team of eight students: two from Years 7/8, two from Year 9, two from Year 10 & two from Years 11/12.

The following information will help you in preparing your schools team.

* We have 15 schools entered in the 2021 Australasian Philosothon. These schools have been invited because they were placed among the top schools from their regional Australian state or territory or from regional philosothon in NZ. Philosothons are currently being run throughout Australasia and Europe, involving well over 400 schools.
* The event is being hosted once again by the peak body in Australasia for philosophy, the Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP).
* Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions we are once again running the Australasian Philosothon online via Zoom.
* You can find the resources for the 2021 Australasian Philosothon online: <https://aap.org.au/philosothon/home>
* Organising teachers will need to notify us of the student’s names and email addresses before the event. Please complete the attached AAPP School Information sheet and return it to Dr Kaz Bland [philosothon@aap.org.au](mailto:philosothon@aap.org.au) by August 31st.
* Students are also required to submit questions, via the AAPP School Information sheet. Questions should be based on the Stimulus material. Open ended philosophical questions will be most welcome.
* Please note that students can participate from your school even if they were not a part of the original 2020 qualifying team.
* There is no expectation that students will have studied Philosophy and Ethics before or after participating in the Philosothon.
* The Philosothon uses a Community of Inquiry (C.O.I.) model of discussion. (Details below)
* Please make sure all payments are made by the due dates.

**At the online Australasian Philosothon**

* Students can participate in this event either at your school or at home. We will preassign registered students to CoI breakout rooms.
* All students attending the Philosothon will need to be in their respective school uniform.
* We are also asking that each school provide a teacher facilitator to help with the facilitation of discussions.

**Program**

**DAY 1: Tuesday 28th Sept**

**Perth 8 am / Adelaide 9:30 am / AEST 10:00 am / NZST 1 pm**

* Acknowledgement of Country
* Welcome and Introductions (30 minutes)
  + Professor Stuart Brock, CEO AAP
  + Professor Rob Wilson, UWA
  + Kara Vaughn, Teacher & Member, PiCC (AAP)
  + Kaz Bland - Philosothon Manager

**Round 1 - Perth 8:30 am / Adelaide 10:00 am / AEST 10:30 am / NZST 1:30 pm**

Zoom:

* CoI 1 (Seniors – years 10 & 11/12) “Can we know really different other minds?” (45 min)
* CoI 1 (Juniors – years 7/8 & 9) “Can we know really different other minds?” (45 min)
* Judge’s & Facilitators feedback (10 min)

**Conversation with a Philosopher in the Main Room – Perth 9:30 am / Adelaide 11:00 am / AEST 11:30 am / NZST 2:30 pm**

* A Conversation with Professor Deborah Brown (UQ): Professor Rob Wilson (UWA) asks What is philosophy good for and other questions about living a philosophical life. (40 min)
* Discussion (10 min)

**Break** (10 min)

**Round 2 – Perth 10.30 am / Adelaide 12:00 pm / AEST 12:30 pm / NZST 3:30 pm**

Zoom:

* CoI 2 (Seniors – years 10 & 11/12) “Is “cultural appropriation” a term that helps in efforts to respect peoples and cultures?” (45 min)
* CoI 2 (Juniors – years 7/8 & 9) “Is “cultural appropriation” a term that helps in efforts to respect peoples and cultures?” (45 min)
* Judge’s & Facilitators feedback (10 min)

**Day 1 Closing – Perth 11.30 am / Adelaide 1:00 pm / AEST 1:30 pm / NZST 4:30 pm**

* Kaz Bland (10 min)
* Feedback from facilitators & judges (20 min)

**Finish time- 12:00 pm Perth/ Adelaide 1:00 pm / AEST 2:0 pm / NZST 5:00 pm**

**Program**

**Day 2: Wednesday 29th Sept 2021**

**Perth 8 am / Adelaide 9:30 am / AEST 10:00 am / NZST 1 pm**

* Welcome and Review (15 min)
  + Kaz Bland - Philosothon Manager
  + Day 1 Feedback with Head Judge

**Round 3 - Perth 8:15 am / Adelaide 9:45 am / AEST 10:15 am / NZST 1:15 pm**

Zoom:

* CoI 3 (Mixed) “Do parents have an obligation to create the best child they can?” (45 min)
* CoI 3 (Mixed) “Do parents have an obligation to create the best child they can?” (45 min)
* Judge’s & Facilitators feedback (10 min)

**Conversation with a Philosopher in the Main Room – Perth 9:15 am / Adelaide 10:45 am / AEST 11:15 am / NZST 2:15 pm**

* Professor Peter Godfrey Smith (USyd) talks COVID19 & Lockdowns
* Video interview (20 min)
* Discussion (30 min)

**Break** (10 min)

**Round 4 – Perth 10.15 am / Adelaide 11:45 am / AEST 12:15 pm / NZST 3:15 pm**

Zoom:

* CoI 4 (Mixed) “Is knowing yourself the first step to knowing anything at all?” (45 min)
* CoI 4 (Mixed) “Is knowing yourself the first step to knowing anything at all?” (45 min)
* Judge’s & Facilitators feedback (10 min)

**Conversation with a Philosopher in the Main Room – Perth 11.15 am / Adelaide 12:45 pm / AEST 1:15 pm / NZST 4:15 pm**

* Dr Peter Ellerton (UQ): *No, You’re Not Entitled to Your Opinion* (20 min)

**Day 2 Closing – Perth 11.35 am / Adelaide 1:05 pm / AEST 1:35 pm / NZST 4:35 pm**

* Thanks to students, facilitators, judges, teachers
* Thanks to PiCC
* Thanks to Kaz Bland & Monty Campbell
* Results
* Final farewell – Head Judge

**Finish time – 12:00 pm Perth / Adelaide 1:30 pm / AEST 2:00 pm / NZST 5:00 pm**

# 2021 Participating Schools

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Churchie QLD  Guildford Grammar WA  Loreto Ballarat VIC  Merici College ACT  Meriden College NSW  Narrabunda College ACT (Jnrs)  Nth Sydney Girls School NSW  Our Lady of Mercy College WA | Scotch WA  Seymour College SA  St Andrews Cathedral School NSW  St Peters Girls School SA  Telopea Park High School ACT (Snrs)  Willetton Senior High School WA  Yeronga (QU) |

**FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE PHILOSOTHON**

* During the Australasian Philosothon there will be four Communities of Inquiry over the two days. To enliven discussion outside of the CoI’s, we are also holding *Conversations with a Philosopher* in the main room – see program.
* Like previous years we are running the CoI’s from the very beginning of the program, on the first day, through to the end of the program on Wednesday.
* Each student will participate in four CoI's and all four will be graded.
* Each graded CoI will be 45 minutes long. Followed by feedback from the facilitator and judge/s.
* There will be between eight and ten participants in each CoI, all groups will be discussing the same topic at the same time.
* Students will remain in Year level groups (7/8, 9, 10 & 11/12) for their first two assessed CoI’s and then for the final two sessions the year levels will be mixed.
* Each graded CoI will be assigned a facilitator, to co-ordinate the discussion, and a judge, who will award marks using the attached criteria.
* Each participant in the CoI will be marked separately, and these marks will contribute towards both a final School score and to decide Year level medals.
* Individual medals will also be awarded to year level winners.
* The two most promising philosophers will receive a $100 book voucher from the Australasian Association of Philosophy.
* The score sheet is below and will be used by the judging panel, which consists of subject specialists in Philosophy.

RECOGNITION AWARD INFORMATION

* A trophy will be awarded to the winning school at the end of the Australasian Philosothon and medals awarded to various Year categories. These will be posted to the participating schools who will then award these in an assembly.
* Two $100 book vouchers have been donated by the Australasian Association for Philosophy and will be awarded to the two most promising philosophers over the three days.
* The top three schools will also receive a year’s subscription to Philosophy Now. Students will be awarded medals if ranked 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their Year division and school ranking

YEAR LEVEL CUT OFFS

* Each school will need to field a team of eight students: two from Years 7/8, two from Year 9, two from Year 10 & two from Years 11/12.
* Please contact us if you have any questions.

# Topics for the Communities of Inquiry:

# 2021 Philosothon Topics

1. Can we know really different other minds?
2. Is “cultural appropriation” a term that helps in efforts to respect peoples and cultures?
3. Do parents have an obligation to create the best child they can?
4. Is knowing yourself the first step to knowing anything at all?

<https://aap.org.au/philosothon/home>

Students will go through this stimulus material and design an open-ended question that is submitted via the AAPP School Information sheet by 31st August 2021 to: [philosothon@aap.org.au](mailto:philosothon@aap.org.au). This will be read out at the start of each CoI.

Contact Details

Organiser Dr Kaz Bland [philosothon@aap.org.au](mailto:philosothon@aap.org.au)

# BASIC GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN

# AN ONLINE COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY

* Students will be invited to enter a breakout room.
* When invited by the facilitator please enter your question in the “Chat Forum” (Cut and paste it)
* Make sure your camera is on and microphone off. And that you are seated far enough from your camera so that your upper torso is visible. (Not just a head shot)
* Be prepared for a discussion. When you are invited to speak turn your microphone on. (After you have chosen the next speak turn your mic off)
* There is to be no reference to notes. (Judges will mark students down if they are reading pre-prepared notes.)
* Keep your contribution as brief as possible and do not make multiple points, questions and or illustrations.
* If you want to speak, put your “hand up
* The last person to speak chooses the next person to speak.
* There is a need to ask questions rather than make statements.
* Deep listening is integral to the process
* Give reasons for your position
* Check assumptions, reasoning, evidence – your own as well as others
* Define and discuss points of difference as well as points of agreement
* Ask others for reasons, definitions, evidence, examples assumptions if necessary.
* Admit when you disagree with something that you may have thought earlier.
* The facilitator will ask people to finish

# REMEMBER

* Sense of community is essential.
* All opinions are respected but you do not have to agree with every position. The discussion makes the pathway not a leader.
* Differences are a fundamental part of the process. Accept that others may disagree with you.
* Conflict and mistakes made in good faith are to be seen as opportunities for learning and growth.
* This is a thinking process that can challenge assumptions and preconceived ideas. It may be that you need to change your mind
* It is NOT about winning an argument.
* It is about thinking more deeply about matters of importance to you as a member of the community.

ALL CHALLENGES ARE TO IDEAS EXPRESSED AND NOT TO THE PEOPLE EXPRESSING THE IDEAS

# Philosothon Community of Inquiry Marking Key

The following marking key will be used for the Philosothon. It is an updated version of the marking key originally developed by Professor Stephan Millett to assess student participation and performance in the Community of Inquiry. Student details will be prefilled.





**Facilitators Guide**

Each Zoom breakout room will have between 8 and 10 students, plus the facilitator and judge/s. Facilitators will have co-hosting rights in the breakout rooms – this will enable you to mute etc., if necessary. The judge will observe and score students on the skills displayed. You will be provided all submitted questions prior to the event, however, please ask the students to write or cut and paste their question in the chat forum while you are waiting for everyone to arrive.

PROCEDURE

1. Before starting, ask the students to position themselves so that their upper torso is visible – this enables reading of body language and helps judges to verify that students are not using notes.
2. Make sure they have their full name and school displayed on their screen:

e.g., Joe Jones, Mirrabooka SHS

1. Check that all the students are present, that they have entered their questions in the chat forum.
2. Introduce yourself briefly.
3. Invite the judge(s) to introduce themselves before turning their cameras off and putting themselves on mute. Only the eight participating students and yourself, should have their cameras on.
4. Invite each student to introduce themselves briefly and read out their question – it is easier to go in order of the questions as submitted in the “chat” forum.
5. Choose an appropriate question and then invite the questioner to restate their question. Remind students of the respectful nature of the discussion and tell them that the person speaking selects the next responder, based on hands raised. Add that as the facilitator, you will intervene to help the discussion move forward, as needed. Open the discussion for others to respond.
6. The facilitator intervenes where appropriate, mainly to ensure each participant gets an opportunity to speak but generally the students will run the CoI.
7. We have allowed time for yourself and the Judges to comment at the end and advise students about what they thought worked well, where some improvement might be possible etc.
8. You will receive a 5-minute warning of the end of the session. Once completed, return to the main room.