

2021

AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILOSOPHY PHILOSOTHON

**(AAPP)**

# STUDENTS INFORMATION KITS

Congratulations on being selected to represent your school in the 2021 AAP Philosothon. The following information is designed to help you prepare for the event.

* Due to COVID19 restrictions we are once again running the Australasian Philosothon on-line using Zoom technology. While the structure of the event remains the same as previous years, there are some important differences to previous Australasian Philosothons.
* We have sent your teachers AAPP School Information sheets to fill out. They will need to include the following information:
  + Your name, year level, relevant health conditions, dietary requirements etc.
  + Your email address, to enable pre-allocation to breakout rooms.
  + Your questions, based on the Stimulus material provided. Open ended philosophical questions will be most welcomed.
* There are 15 schools entered in the 2021 Australasian Philosothon.
* You can find the stimulus material and other resources for the 2021 Australasian Philosothon on-line at: <https://aap.org.au/Philosothon/Resources>
* [These resources are not intended to be exhaustive but rather provide a](https://philosothon.org/2020AustralasianPhilosothon/Resources1.html) starting point for the discussions throughout the event. Make sure you are familiar with the resource material beforehand.
* The only difference between an on-line Philosothon and one held face to face is that you are not sitting in a circle but in front of a screen. All the other rules and protocols apply. See article at the end of this handout.
* There is no expectation on students that they will have studied Philosophy before or after participating in the Philosothon.
* All students attending the Philosothon will need to be in their respective school uniform for each CoI.
* Make sure you include your full name and your school on your screen. This will enable judges and facilitators to identify you. For example: Dr Kaz Bland, UWA

**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.

# 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 which 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 AN ONLINE COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY

* You 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.



