



National  
Qualifications  
2019

**X854/76/12**

**Philosophy  
Paper 2**

MONDAY, 20 MAY

1:00 PM – 2:45 PM

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**Total marks — 50**

**SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 30 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

**SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 10 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

**SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 10 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



## SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4.

Beat together 225g softened unsalted butter and 225g caster sugar until pale and creamy, then add 4 eggs, one at a time, slowly mixing through.

Sift in 225g self-raising flour, then add the finely grated zest of 1 lemon and mix until well combined.

Do not use a waxed lemon. The zest from all waxed lemons is very bitter.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (a) What distinguishes a statement from other types of sentences?      | 1 |
| (b) Identify a statement in the passage above.                         | 1 |
| (c) Give a counterexample to the universal claim in the above passage. | 1 |

2. Read the following argument and answer the questions that follow.

*'A square has 4 sides.*

*A triangle has 3 sides.*

*Therefore, a square has more sides than a triangle.'*

Arguments are often evaluated in terms of the acceptability, relevance and sufficiency of their premises.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Choose one of the premises in the above argument. What makes this premise acceptable? | 1 |
| (b) What makes this argument deductive?   | 1 |

3. Read the following argument.

Premise 1 — There was a massive spider in my sink this morning.

Premise 2 — I've just seen a massive spider running across my living room floor.

Conclusion —

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the premises?

Give **two** reasons for your choice.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. My house is over-run by spiders.              |   |
| B. There may be two massive spiders in my house. |   |
| C. There is no longer a spider in my sink.       | 2 |

4. Read the following argument and answer the question that follows.  
*'For goodness' sake, Sophie is the right candidate for the job. She has got the necessary academic qualifications and she has extensive relevant experience. She has lots of useful contacts. She has the best temperament for dealing with stress. Come on, she's obviously the right candidate.'*  
 Present the above argument in an argument diagram.  
**You must include a key for your diagram.** 3
5. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.  
*'It's simply not enough to ban plastic straws. There are 150 million tonnes of plastic in the ocean. There is a social media campaign to ban plastic straws. However, plastic straws are only a tiny fraction of the problem. Just by banning them, we are not going to solve the problem.'*  
 Present the argument above in standard form. 3
6. Read the following argument.  
 'The lamb is ready to eat so you should go and set the table.'  
 (a) Explain the ambiguity in this argument. 1  
 (b) How does the ambiguity affect this argument? 2
7. (a) What is confirmation bias? 2  
 (b) Explain how confirmation bias might affect a police investigation. 2
8. (a) What is a fallacious appeal to emotion? 1  
 (b) Give an example of a fallacious appeal to emotion and explain why it is bad reasoning. 2
9. (a) State the form of the denying the antecedent fallacy. 1  
 (b) Give an example of denying the antecedent. 1  
 (c) Using your example, explain the error in this form of reasoning. 3
10. When is an attack on the person (ad-hominem) not fallacious?  
 You may support your answer with an example. 2

[Turn over

## SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 10 marks

Attempt ALL questions

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|--|---|
| 11. Why does Descartes think the cogito is a truth he can be absolutely certain of?  | 2 |
| 12. Explain what Descartes means by 'clear and distinct perception'.   | 2 |
| 13. In Meditation 2, what reasons does Descartes give for his belief that 'whatever I perceive very clearly and distinctly is true'? | 2 |
| 14. Explain two problems with the claim 'whatever I perceive very clearly and distinctly is true'.                                   | 4 |

## SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 10 marks

Attempt ALL questions

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|-----|---|---|
| 15. | What does Mill mean by 'higher pleasures' and 'lower pleasures'?  | 1 |
| 16. | Why did Mill draw the distinction between higher and lower pleasures?   | 2 |
| 17. | Why does Mill believe that a competent judge would prefer higher pleasures to lower pleasures?  | 4 |
| 18. | 'Mill was wrong. I'd much rather go for a pizza than go to the opera.'<br>Explain why this could be seen as an unfair criticism of Mill's higher and lower pleasures. | 3 |

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