



National
Qualifications
2022 MODIFIED

X854/76/11

**Philosophy
Paper 1**

WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Total marks — 60

SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt ONE question.

SECTION 2 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ONE question.

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.



Attempt ONE question

1. Read the following extract and answer the question which follows.

Some years ago, I was struck by the large number of falsehoods that I had accepted as true in my childhood, and by the highly doubtful nature of the whole edifice that I had subsequently based on them. I realised that it was necessary, once in the course of my life, to demolish everything completely and start again right from the foundations if I wanted to establish anything at all in the sciences that was stable and likely to last.

René Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditation I

Explain and evaluate Descartes' arguments in Meditation I.

In your answer you could include discussion of the following:

- the aims of Meditation 1
- the method of doubt
- the connections between the arguments
- Descartes' position at the end of Meditation I
- strengths and weaknesses of Descartes' arguments.

30

OR

2. Read the following extract and answer the question which follows.

Everyone will freely admit that the perceptions of the mind when a man feels the pain of excessive heat or the pleasure of moderate warmth are considerably unlike what he feels when he later remembers this sensation or earlier looks forward to it in his imagination. Memory and imagination may mimic or copy the perceptions of the senses, but they can't create a perception that has as much force and liveliness as the one they are copying.

Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding Section 2

Explain and evaluate Hume's arguments in his Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding Section 2.

In your answer you could include discussion of the following:

- Hume's distinction between impressions and ideas, including examples
- an explanation of the role of the imagination
- a discussion of Hume's arguments about how we acquire different types of ideas
- analysis and evaluation of any counter-examples
- strengths and weaknesses and how they affect Hume's theory.

30

Attempt ONE question

3. Read the following situation and answer the question which follows.

The Government is considering changing the law to allow assisted dying for the first time. If a person is suffering from a painful illness which will eventually lead to their death and they ask to be helped to die, then it will be legal to administer a large dose of a painless drug to kill them. The Government is asking citizens to vote on this change in the law.

Explain and evaluate whether a follower of Kantian ethics would vote for this change in the law.

In your answer you could include the following:

- a description of Kant's moral theory
- an explanation of how Kant says we should make moral decisions
- application of Kantian ethics to this change in law
- evaluation of Kantian ethics in relation to this change in law.

30

OR

4. Read the following quotation and answer the question that follows.

'Kant believes that we can solve all moral dilemmas by using reason, but this is not helpful in real life situations. Kant's reliance on reason is not helpful in real life moral decision-making.'

To what extent is this a fair criticism of Kantianism?

Consider how Kant might respond to this criticism.

In your answer you could include the following:

- a description of Kant's moral theory
- an explanation of how Kant says we should make moral decisions
- discussion of how the criticism applies to Kantian ethics
- evaluation of Kantian ethics in relation to this criticism.

30

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