



National
Qualifications
2023 MODIFIED

X854/76/11

**Philosophy
Paper 1**

TUESDAY, 23 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.



SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt ONE question

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

‘The whole force of the argument lies in this: I recognise that it would be impossible for me to exist with the kind of nature I have — that is, having within me the idea of God — were it not the case that God really existed.’

René Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditation 3

How convincing is Descartes’ claim to have proven that God exists in Meditation 3?

In your answer you could include discussion of the following:

- the clear and distinct rule established at the start of Meditation 3
- Descartes’ Trademark Argument to prove that God exists
- strengths and weaknesses of the clear and distinct rule
- strengths and weaknesses of the arguments for God’s existence.

30

OR

2. In ‘*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*’, Hume argues that *knowledge of cause and effect is not based on reasoning or any process of the understanding*. How convincing are his arguments?

In your answer you could include discussion of the following:

- the distinction between relations of ideas (a priori knowledge) and matters of fact (a posteriori knowledge)
- the possibility of having a priori knowledge of causes and effects
- the examples Hume uses to support his theory of cause and effect, for example, billiard balls and the sun rising
- the success of Hume’s theory of cause and effect.

30

SECTION 2 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ONE question

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

You work for a company that has developed medication to treat a life-threatening illness, but supplies are limited. You must decide where to send the medicine. Should it go to parts of the world where limited healthcare makes catching the illness more dangerous, or to your own country, where it is likely to be less severe for most people?

Analyse and evaluate how a Utilitarian might advise you to act in the above situation.

In your answer you could include the following:

- a description of Utilitarianism as a moral theory
- an explanation of how Utilitarianism says we should make moral decisions
- application of Utilitarianism to this situation
- evaluation of Utilitarianism in relation to this situation.

30

OR

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

'Utilitarianism would be a great moral theory, if it were possible to actually apply it to any real-life situations.'

To what extent is this a fair criticism of Utilitarianism? Consider how a Utilitarian might respond to this comment.

In your answer you could include the following:

- a description of Utilitarianism as a moral theory
- an explanation of how Utilitarianism says we should make moral decisions
- discussion of how the comment applies to Utilitarianism
- evaluation of Utilitarianism in relation to this comment.

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