



National  
Qualifications  
2025

**X854/76/11**

**Philosophy  
Paper 1**

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM

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**Total marks — 60**

**SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks**

Attempt the 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 the question

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

*‘So when we come to suspect that a philosophical term is being used without any meaning or idea (as happens all too often), we need only to ask: from what impression is that supposed idea derived?’*

*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Section 2*

Explain and evaluate Hume’s theory of impressions and ideas.

In your answer you could include the following:

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

30

## SECTION 2 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

## Attempt ONE question

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

*You are hiding a group of innocent people in your home during a time of political turmoil. A malicious authority knocks on your door and asks if you are sheltering anyone. You know that if you tell the truth, the lives of those you are protecting will be in immediate danger, and they will likely face severe consequences.*

Analyse and evaluate how Kantian ethics might address the moral challenges presented by this situation.

In your answer you could include the following:

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

30

OR

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

*'We should always prioritise moral duties even if doing so would lead to the suffering of others.'*

To what extent do you agree with this quotation? Evaluate Kantian ethics as a moral theory.

In your answer you could include the following:

- a description of Kantian ethics as a moral theory
- an explanation of how Kantian ethics says we should make moral decisions
- discussion of the implications of the statement for the success of Kantian ethics
- evaluation of Kantian ethics in relation to this quotation.

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[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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