

# X237/301

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2007

MONDAY, 28 MAY  
1.00 PM – 3.40 PM

PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER

**You should answer**

Section 1 – Question 1

Section 2 – **Either** Question 2  
**OR** Question 3

Section 3 – Question 4 **AND**  
**Either** Question 5  
**OR** Question 6

Section 4 – Question 7 **AND**  
Question 8



SECTION 1

Marks Code

Critical Thinking in Philosophy

Question 1

(You should answer all parts, (a–g), of this question).

- (a) State three essential features of any argument. 3 KU
- (b) State the purpose of any argument. 1 KU
- (c) What is meant by describing an argument as “valid”? 2 KU
- (d) Present this argument in a way that clearly demonstrates the reasoning being used.
- I’m sorry, Mr Peterson, but if you set the homework for tomorrow I won’t be able to complete it in time. I’ve got piles of other stuff to do, eg there’s an essay to write for French; and I wouldn’t be able to do it anyway as I’m going out tonight.*
- (e) Explain the role of the statement “*there’s an essay to write for French*” in this argument. 5 AE
- (f) State what you would need to know in order to decide whether or not this is a sound argument. 1 AE
- (g) Say whether or not this argument is an example of an appeal to consequences. Give reasons for your answer. 2 KU

4 AE

(20)

**Either**

**Question 2**

(You should only answer this question if you have studied the debate “**Is there a rational basis for belief in God?**” If not, go to Question 3.)

You should answer both parts of this question (*a and b*).

- |   |             |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| (a) Describe <b>one</b> version of the teleological argument. | <b>10</b>   | <b>KU</b> |
| (b) Critically evaluate the teleological argument.            | <b>10</b>   | <b>AE</b> |
|   | <b>(20)</b> |           |

**Or**

**Question 3**

(You should only answer this question if you have studied the debate “**Do we have free will?**”)

You should answer all parts of this question (*a, b and c*).

- |   |             |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| (a) What reasons might be given for believing that we are totally determined?                       | <b>4</b>    | <b>KU</b> |
| (b) What reasons might be given for believing that we are not totally determined?                   | <b>4</b>    | <b>KU</b> |
| (c) Does compatibilism provide an answer to the problem of free will? Give reasons for your answer. | <b>2</b>    | <b>KU</b> |
|   | <b>10</b>   | <b>AE</b> |
|   | <b>(20)</b> |           |

**[Turn over**

### Section 3 – Epistemology

Marks Code

#### Question 4

(You should answer **both** parts of this question and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.)

- (a) Describe what rationalists mean by “innate ideas”. Illustrate your answer with appropriate examples. 5 KU
- (b) What reasons do the empiricists give for rejecting “innate ideas”? 5 KU
- (10)

**Either**

#### Question 5

(You should only answer this question if you have studied **Descartes’ Rationalism** in the Epistemology Unit. If not, go to Question 6.)

Read the statement below then answer all parts of the question (**a–c**).

#### Extract

Accordingly, I will suppose not a supremely good God, the source of truth, but rather an evil genius, supremely powerful and clever, who has directed his entire effort at deceiving me. I will regard the heavens, the air, the earth, colours, shapes, sounds, and all external things as nothing but bedevilling hoaxes of my dreams, with which he lays snares for my credulity.

**Descartes – *Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation 1***

- (a) What role does the evil genius play in Descartes’ method of doubt? 10 KU
- (b) Explain why Descartes later believes that he can be confident that physical objects exist. 8 AE
- (c) Is Descartes successful in his attempt to rebuild knowledge? 12 AE
- (30)

**Or**

#### Question 6

(You should only answer this question if you have studied **Hume’s Empiricism** in the Epistemology Unit.)

You should answer all parts of this question (**a–c**).

- (a) What is “Hume’s Fork”? 4 KU
- (b) How useful is “Hume’s Fork” as a philosophical tool? 10 AE
- (c) Does Hume’s consideration of animals convince you that custom, habit and instinct are the basis for our belief in causal connections? 6 KU
- 10 AE
- (30)

**Section 4 – Moral Philosophy**

*Marks Code*

You should answer **both** questions – Question 7 **and** Question 8 (*a, b and c*).

**Question 7**

Read the short case study then answer the question that follows.

A friend tells you that she has committed a particular crime and you promise never to tell. Discovering that an innocent person has been accused of the crime, you plead with your friend to give herself up. She refuses and reminds you of your promise.

To what extent does this moral dilemma illustrate the problems with Kantian ethics?

**15 KU**  
**15 AE**  
**(30)**

**Question 8**

- (a) What is meant by the term “Metaethics”?
- (b) According to Emotivism, what role does emotion play in our moral judgements?
- (c) “If Emotivism is correct, it is impossible to judge between competing moral claims”.

**2 KU**  
**3 KU**

To what extent does this criticism weaken the Emotivist position?

**5 AE**  
**(10)**

*[END OF QUESTION PAPER]*

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