

X237/201

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2008

THURSDAY, 22 MAY
1.00 PM – 3.00 PM

PHILOSOPHY
INTERMEDIATE 2

Candidates should answer:

Section 1—all parts of Question 1

Section 2—**Either** all parts of Question 2
OR all parts of Question 3

Section 3—all parts of Question 4 and
Either all parts of Question 5
OR all parts of Question 6

Section 4—all parts of Question 7



SECTION 1—CRITICAL THINKING IN PHILOSOPHY

Marks Code

Candidates must answer all parts of this question.

1. (a) The following list contains both arguments and statements. Write down the **three** numbers that identify the **arguments**.

- (1) You shouldn't put the milk in first because, if you do, it spoils the taste.
- (2) So she said, "Yes, you can" and he replied, "Really? Are you sure about that?"
- (3) Come on, it's not that bad. After all, it can soon be fixed.
- (4) Is this the way to make fresh pasta?
- (5) If I don't get this finished soon I won't have time to go out and then he'll never forgive me.
- (6) Make sure you do the washing up before you go to bed.
- (7) There are fewer and fewer fish in the North Sea therefore we should limit the amount of fish that trawlers can catch.
- (8) Although the piece of music was played well the audience failed to appreciate what they were hearing.

3 KU

(b) Read the following argument.

If the harvest is good then the price of vegetables falls. Since the price of vegetables has fallen we know that the harvest was good.

- (i) State the conclusion of this argument.
- (ii) Does this conclusion follow from the premises? Give a reason for your answer.

1 AE

2 AE

(c) Give an example of an argument from ignorance and explain why your example is an unreliable form of reasoning.

4 KU

(10)

SECTION 2—METAPHYSICS

Marks Code

Candidates must answer **EITHER** all parts of Question 2 **OR** all parts of Question 3.

EITHER

2. God

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|----|
| (a) | What is the design argument for the existence of God? | 2 | KU |
| (b) | State two criticisms that can be made of the design argument. | 4 | KU |
| (c) | Do you agree with these criticisms? Give reasons for your answer. | 4 | AE |

OR

3. Free will

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|----|
| (a) | What is compatibilism? | 2 | KU |
| (b) | State two reasons for believing that free will and determinism are compatible.
Give reasons for your answer. | 4 | KU |
| (c) | What objections have been made to compatibilism? | 4 | AE |

(20)

[Turn over

SECTION 3—EPISTEMOLOGY

Marks Code

Candidates must answer Question 4 and **EITHER** all parts of Question 5
OR all parts of Question 6.

4. Epistemology

- (a) What is epistemology? 2 KU
- (b) What is a rationalist approach to epistemology? 3 KU
- (5)

EITHER

5. Descartes

Descartes says that he will reject his previous opinions if he finds in them “some reason for doubt”.

- (a) Describe the stages of Descartes’ method of doubt. 7 KU
- (b) Does Descartes’ method of doubt provide him with certainty? 8 AE
- (15)

OR

6. Hume

“Suppose . . . a person to have enjoyed his sight for thirty years, and to have become perfectly acquainted with colours of all kinds except one particular shade of blue . . .”

- (a) What is the “missing shade of blue” example? 6 KU
- (b) Why might the “missing shade of blue” be a problem for Hume? 6 AE
- (c) How might Hume have avoided this problem? 3 AE
- (15)

SECTION 4—MORAL PHILOSOPHY

Marks Code

Candidates must answer all parts of this question.

7. Normative Ethics

The story is told of several sailors adrift in a lifeboat and dying of starvation. To stay alive the sailors decided to kill and eat one of the group. They ganged up on the unsuspecting little cabin boy who was then eaten. The sailors survived.

Discuss how Kantian and Utilitarian theories might deal with this situation.

10 KU

10 AE

(20)

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