



2011 Philosophy

Intermediate 2

Finalised Marking Instructions

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2011 Intermediate 2 Philosophy

In their answers candidates are rewarded according to the quality of thought revealed in their answers. They are not rewarded solely or even mainly for the quantity of knowledge conveyed. "Quality of thought" is taken as including the extent to which the candidate:

- gives an answer which is relevant to the question and relates explicitly to the terms of the question
- argues a case when requested to do so
- makes the various distinctions required by the question
- responds to all the elements in the question
- where required explains, analyses, discusses and assesses rather than simply describing or narrating
- answers with clarity and fluency and uses appropriate philosophical language.

The detailed information which follows indicates the points that a candidate is likely to make in response to the questions. These lists are not to be considered exhaustive and it is quite possible for candidates to write high quality answers and not mention all the points listed. The marks suggested for each point are allocated on the assumption that they are mentioned relatively briefly. Development of a point should earn more credit. Answers should be marked positively and irrelevant material ignored rather than penalised.

The language and sophistication of the bullet points are not necessarily indicative of the language pupils are expected to use in their answers.

Section 1 – total marks 10 (6/4)

Question 1

- This section examines the mandatory content of the Unit ‘Critical Thinking in Philosophy (Int 2)’.
- It has **one** structured question with **3 to 6** related parts.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of **1 to 5** and requires either a short-answer or restricted response.
- Candidates answer **all** related parts of this question.

There is no choice in Section 1 of the Question Paper.

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

1. Today is not Wednesday and it is not Friday. It is Saturday.
2. I will probably not do very well because I am tired.
3. If it is Tuesday then the train will arrive at ten o'clock.
4. She is smaller than you. Therefore, you shouldn't hit her.
5. Nobody likes him. Why is that?
6. I had fish for dinner today and it tasted better than your lamb.
7. Those biscuits were a little overcooked.
8. You got 100% in the prelim so you should pass the final exam.

1 mark for each of 2, 4 and 8.

3

(b) **Read the following argument:**

“Of course Heather speaks Gaelic because everyone who lives in Scotland speaks Gaelic and Heather lives in Scotland.”

- (i) **What is the conclusion in this argument?**
- (ii) **Is this a valid argument? Give a reason for your answer.**
- (iii) **Is this a sound argument? Give a reason for your answer.**

- **1 mark** for identifying the conclusion as “Heather speaks Gaelic.”
- **1 mark** for saying that the argument is valid.
- **1 mark** for saying that the conclusion follows from the premises.
- **1 mark** for saying that this is not a sound argument.
- **1 mark** for saying that since one of the premises is false it cannot be a sound argument.

5

(c) **What is a false dilemma? Support your answer with an appropriate example.**

- An argument that assumes that there are only two possibilities when in fact there are other possibilities.
- Any appropriate example.

2

A total of two marks can only be awarded if it is clear from either the description of the false dilemma or from the example that a false dilemma is concerned with arguments.

Total 10 marks

Section 2 – total marks 10 (6/4)

Question 2 – God

- This section examines the mandatory content of the Unit ‘Metaphysics’ (Int 2).
- It has **two** structured questions, each with **1 to 5** related parts.
- Each structured question samples across the mandatory content of **one** of the options in this Unit and may contain a stimulus.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of **1 to 10** and requires either a restricted or extended response.

Candidates answer **all** parts of the **one** structured question which relates to the option they have studied.

(a) **Describe the cosmological argument for the existence of God.**

- Everything has a cause.
- The universe must have a cause.
- There cannot be an infinite series of prior causes.
- Hence, there must be a first (uncaused) cause.
- That cause is God.
- Reference to appropriate sources.

6

(b) **Explain two criticisms that can be made of this argument.**

- There is nothing necessarily wrong with an infinite regress.
- The first cause doesn't have to be God.
- The conclusion arguably contradicts the premise.
- Just because everything in the universe has a cause doesn't mean that the universe has a cause.
- Replaces an inexplicable universe with an inexplicable God.
- Science now claims that there are uncaused events – Quantum theory.

4

Total 10 marks

Section 2: total marks 10

Question 3 – Free Will

- This section examines the mandatory content of the Unit 'Metaphysics' (Int 2).
- It has **two** structured questions, each with **1 to 5** related parts.
- Each structured question samples across the mandatory content of **one** of the options in this Unit and may contain a stimulus.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of **1 to 10** and requires either a restricted or extended response.

Candidates answer **all** parts of the **one** structured question which relates to the option they have studied.

(a) **What is determinism?**

- The position that all events, including those that make up human behaviour and thinking, are caused to occur by prior sufficient causes.

2

(b) **Explain two arguments for determinism.**

- Science has been successful and assumes the causal principle.
- As science has progressed we continually identify more causes.
- Appropriate examples might be taken from genetic determinism, environmental determinism, etc.
- An event without a cause is an unexplained event.

4

A maximum of three marks can be awarded for any one argument.

(c) **Is determinism compatible with human freedom?**

Candidates may answer this question in a variety of ways and should be given credit for any relevant point made and an additional mark for further expansion of that point.

- Explanation of indeterminist position – if everything including human behaviour is caused by earlier events then since we have no control over those earlier events we can have no control over events in the present.
- Indeterminism is the position of both Libertarianism and Hard Determinism.
- Explanation of compatibilism – a free act is an act that has not been coerced.
- Determinism is required for human freedom – without determinism human events can have no explanation and would be random not free.

4

Total 10 marks

Section 3: total marks 20

Question 4 – Epistemology

- This section examines the mandatory content of the Unit 'Epistemology' (Int 2).
- It has **two** parts.
- Candidates answer **one** structured question in **both parts** of this section.

The nature of each question is outlined below:

Part 1 – total marks 5

- This part of Section 3 samples across the mandatory content of Section One of the Epistemology Unit.
- It has **one** question with **1 to 3** related parts.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of **1 to 5** and requires a restricted response.
- Candidates must answer this question.

There is no choice of question in Part 1 of Section 3.

(a) What is Rationalism?

- Rationalism: An approach to philosophy which claims that some knowledge of the external world can be established by correct reasoning and without the use of sense experience.

Precise recall of the glossary definition is not required. Any appropriate response that includes one relevant point will be awarded one mark. **1**

(b) What is Empiricism?

- Empiricism: An approach to philosophy which claims that knowledge is based on sense experience, that knowledge is not innate, and that knowledge cannot be discovered by reason alone.

Precise recall of the glossary definition is not required. Any appropriate response that includes one relevant point will be awarded one mark. **1**

(c) Which do you find more convincing? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

Any three appropriate points eg

- It is possible to doubt your senses, but
- you can use all your senses together to check for errors.
- It is difficult to believe that we can be wrong about the simple truths of mathematics, but we might be being deceived into thinking this.

3

Total 5 marks

Question 5 – Descartes

Part 2 – total marks 15

- This part of Section 3 samples across the mandatory content of Section Two of the Epistemology Unit.
- It has **two** structured questions, each of which samples across the mandatory content of **one** of the options in this Unit.
- Each structured question may contain an extract from the relevant prescribed text and has **2-5** related parts.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of **1-10** and requires either a restricted or extended response.
- Candidates answer **all** related parts of the **one** structured question which examines the option they have studied.

(a) **Explain the dream argument in Meditation One.**

- The senses initially seem to be reliable for things that are close or very obvious.
- Considers whether he can doubt that he is sitting by the fire.
- Realizes that he has had similar thoughts when asleep.
- No definite signs to distinguish wakefulness from dreaming state.
- Therefore, beliefs based on the senses can be doubted.

4

(b) **What beliefs survive the dream argument?**

- Colour and shape.
- Space and time.
- Number.
- Arithmetical truths.
- Geometrical truths.

3

(c) **Why does Descartes think that even these beliefs can be doubted?**

- Arithmetical errors.
- The possibility of a deceiving God.
- Evil genius.

2

(d) **What is the cogito?**

- Latin for 'I think'. Used as a way of referring to Descartes' argument that he cannot doubt his own existence.
- "I am, I exist" is necessarily true every time I utter it or conceive it in my mind.

2

(e) **Do you think the cogito is beyond doubt?**

- The formulation in the "Discourse on Method".
- There is a suppressed premise: "thinking things exist".
- Do thoughts necessarily imply a thinker? Hume's bundle theory denies a substantial self.
- Russell's accusation of circularity.
- But the cogito not intended as a piece of deductive logic rather a self authenticating proposition hence "I am, I exist" is a necessary truth immune from these criticism.

4

Total 15 marks

Question 6 – Hume

Part 2 – total marks 15

- This part of Section 3 samples across the mandatory content of Section Two of the Epistemology Unit.
- It has **two** structured questions, each of which samples across the mandatory content of **one** of the options in this Unit.
- Each structured question contains an extract from the relevant prescribed text and has **2-5** related parts.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of **1-10** and requires either a restricted or extended response.
- Candidates answer **all** related parts of the **one** structured question which examines the option they have studied.

(a) **What does Hume mean by an impression? Give an example to support your answer.**

- Impression: A direct experience, eg seeing something or feeling an emotion. 2

(b) **What does Hume mean by an idea? Give an example to support your answer.**

- Simple Idea: A copy of an impression, eg remembering seeing something or imagining something. 2

(c) **According to Hume, how is it possible to imagine something we have never seen? Give examples to support your answer.**

- Complex Idea: An idea that is built up from other ideas.
- Compounding, transposing, augmenting, or diminishing (up to two marks).
- Golden mountain.
- Virtuous horse.
- A candidate may give their own appropriate examples. 5

(d) **Do you think Hume is correct in saying that all ideas are based on impressions?**

- Missing shade of blue.
- Distinction between ideas and impressions is not clear.
- Distinction between simple and complex ideas not clear.
- Possibility of innate ideas.
- Naïve psychology. 6

Total 15 marks

Section 4: total marks 20

Question 7 – Normative Ethics

Section 4 – total marks 20

- This section examines the content of the Unit 'Moral Philosophy' (Int 2).
- It has one structured question with 1-6 related parts.
- Each related part has a possible mark range of 1-20 and requires either a restricted or extended response.
- It may contain a short case study or stimulus.

There is no choice of questions in Section 4 of the Question Paper.

(a) **In Kantian ethics what is the difference between a hypothetical imperative and a categorical imperative? Give an example of each to support your answer.**

- Categorical Imperative: An unconditional principle that is binding on everyone. Often contrasted with hypothetical imperatives which are only binding if you want to achieve some particular goal or end.
- Hypothetical Imperative: A conditional principle that is only binding if you want to achieve some particular goal or end. Contrasted by Kant with categorical imperatives which are unconditionally binding.
- Any appropriate examples. 4

(b) **State two formulations of Kant's categorical imperative.**

- Only act on a maxim if you can also will that it be a rule for everyone.
- Never treat someone as a means only but always treat them as an end.
- Accurate quotation of any specific translation of Kant is not required. 4

(c) **Why does Kant disagree with utilitarianism?**

- Kant is duty based.
- Utilitarianism is consequence based.
- Cannot predict consequences and they are outwith our control.
- We can only be held responsible for those things that are within our control and which we have freely chosen. 2 + 2

(d) **Discuss Kant's claim that we should never tell a lie.**

- Explanation of why Kant says we should never lie and application of the two formulations of the categorical imperative. Identifying an appropriate maxim; considering whether the maxim can be universalised; lying involves treating someone as a means only.
- Reference to the story of the pursuing murderer.
- The problem of ignoring consequences.
- The problem of a conflict of duties.
- The injunction accords with the common feeling that lying is generally wrong and not treating other people correctly.
- Appropriate illustrative examples.

A candidate can answer this question in a number of different ways and credit should be given for any relevant points. A maximum of four marks should be awarded if a candidate simply discusses the merits of lying, eg implies but does not explicitly state that Kant can be criticized for ignoring consequences.

2 + 6

Total 20 marks

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]