

# X268/12/01

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2013

THURSDAY, 30 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 – Critical Thinking in Philosophy

Marks Code

### Question 1

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

- (a) “*An argument is just a collection of sentences.*”  
Is this an adequate definition of an argument? Explain your answer. 2 KU
- (b) What is an intermediate conclusion? Provide an example in your answer. 2 KU
- (c) Can questions ever play a significant role in an argument? Give reasons for your response. 2 KU
- (d) How does a valid argument differ from a strong one? 2 KU
- (e) Rewrite the argument in the passage below in Standard Form, labelling each statement appropriately.  
*“The government should fight any attempt to legalise cannabis. Why? Cannabis is a drug that is full of cancer causing chemicals. Furthermore, it severely affects both brain development and bone density. Sustained use of this drug also doubles your chances of developing serious mental illness. Thus, there is no doubt that cannabis is a harmful substance. It is the duty of any government to protect its citizens from harm and danger.”* 4 AE
- (f) What is the difference between a formal fallacy and an informal fallacy? 2 KU
- (g) Suggest fallacies that could be at work in each of the following examples. In each case explain why it is an example of that type of fallacy.
- (i) “*If you take legal drugs like alcohol you will end up on harder drugs like heroin, so you shouldn’t take any drugs at all.*” 2 AE
- (ii) “*My grandmother smoked cigarettes all her life and she lived to be 98 years old. So cigarettes must extend your life.*” 2 AE
- (iii) “*If you try drugs then you have experienced life. You haven’t tried drugs so you haven’t really lived.*” 2 AE

(20)

## Section 2 – Metaphysics

*Marks*    *Code*

**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.)

‘The teleological argument fails to prove the existence of God.’ Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.

**10**    **KU**  
**10**    **AE**  
**(20)**

**Or**

### **Question 3**

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

The compatibilist claims that we are “free if not coerced.” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

**10**    **KU**  
**10**    **AE**  
**(20)**

**[Turn over**

### Section 3 – Epistemology

*Marks*    *Code*

#### Question 4

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

- |  |             |    |
|--|-------------|----|
| (a) Explain how the Gettier problem challenges the Tripartite Theory of Knowledge. Give an example in your answer. | 5           | KU |
| (b) What criticisms can be made of Rationalism?  | 5           | AE |
|  | <b>(10)</b> |    |

**Either**

*Marks Code*

**Question 5**

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

In Meditation 6 Descartes attempts to refute the sceptical arguments first raised in Meditation 1. He attempts to show why we can be certain that material reality must exist and that errors in sense perception can be recognised and corrected.

- |  |         |          |
|--|---------|----------|
| (a) Explain the arguments Descartes uses in Meditation 1 to suggest that we cannot be certain about the existence of material reality. | 6       | KU       |
| (b) In Meditation 6, is Descartes successful in refuting his earlier sceptical arguments?  | 9<br>15 | KU<br>AE |
|  | (30)    |          |

**Or**

**Question 6**

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

- |   |        |          |
|---|--------|----------|
| (a) What is empiricism?   | 4      | KU       |
| (b) How far does Hume's theory of impressions and ideas support his empiricism? | 6<br>7 | KU<br>AE |
| (c) To what extent does Hume's Fork support his empiricism?                     | 6<br>7 | KU<br>AE |
|   | (30)   |          |

**[Turn over**

## Section 4 – Moral Philosophy

Marks Code

You should answer **both** questions – Question 7 **and** Question 8.

### Question 7

Read the following scenario and answer the question that follows.

*You and your friend are talking one night after a hard revision session for your Higher Philosophy prelim exam. She tells you, in confidence, that she has a secret to tell you. She proceeds to tell you that she went into the Philosophy teacher's room at the end of the day and stole a copy of the prelim exam and the marks scheme.*

*She then tells you that she was questioned by the teacher and she told the teacher that she was with you all the time.*

How might a Kantian approach this situation?

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

### Question 8

(a) What is the difference between Act and Rule Utilitarianism?

**4** **KU**

(b) Which theory, Act or Rule Utilitarianism, offers the best approach to moral problems?

**6** **AE**  
**(10)**

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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