

X268/12/01

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2015

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE
9.00 AM – 11.40 AM

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–f), of this question.)

- (a) Which **three** of the following **only** apply to arguments? They can be
- | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1 asserted | 2 cogent | 3 denied | 4 false | 5 hidden | |
| 6 proven | 7 refuted | 8 sound | 9 true | 10 valid | 3 |
- KU**
- (b) *“Everyone joins the army for adventure. Susan didn’t join the army so she obviously didn’t want adventure.”*
- Evaluate the validity of this argument. Give a reason for your answer. **2** **AE**
- (c) *“Despite their limitations, we in fact use inductive arguments every day.”*
- (i) Give an example of a piece of inductive reasoning used in everyday life. **1** **KU**
- (ii) Give **one** possible limitation that an inductive argument can have. **1** **KU**
- (iii) What **two** features would make an inductive argument reliable? **2** **KU**
- (d) Give an example of a *Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc* fallacy and explain why your example is fallacious. **1** **KU**
1 **AE**
- (e) Explain **two** ways in which “Attacking the Person” arguments are unreliable? **2** **KU**
- (f) Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.
- “You don’t need to sit exams or have a degree to guarantee success. Just look at Bill Gates, Richard Branson and Mark Zuckerberg: none of them completed a university degree and all of them are billionaires. In fact, all university does is make you think like millions of other university graduates. However, if you want to come up with a new idea you need to be original and different, not the same.”*
- (i) Write out this argument in standard form, clearly labelling the premises and conclusion in a logical order. **4** **AE**
- (ii) Is this an inductive or deductive argument? Give reasons for your answer. **2** **AE**
- (iii) Suggest a hidden premise at work in this argument. **1** **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.)

Is the ontological argument successful in proving the existence of God?

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?**”.)

Explain and evaluate the Hard Determinist position.

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) How does an Empiricist justify their claims about knowledge? Give an example in your answer. | 5 | KU |
| (b) What criticisms can be made of the Empiricist method of justification? | 5 | AE |
| | (10) | |

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.)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Before Descartes begins to question the reality of the senses he outlines the principles of his method of doubt. What are they? | 6 | KU |
| (b) What does Descartes conclude at the end of Meditation I? | 2 | KU |
| (c) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Descartes' method of doubt. | 6 | AE |
| (d) Is Descartes successful in overcoming his doubts in the rest of the Meditations? | 7
9 | KU
AE |
| | (30) | |

Or**Question 6**

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

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) According to Hume, how do perception and memory operate? | 6 | KU |
| (b) How does Hume explain acts of the imagination? | 2 | KU |
| (c) Outline three possible criticisms that Hume's theory might face. | 6 | AE |
| (d) In Section II of the Enquiries, Hume provides a number of arguments to support his empiricist accounts of perception, memory and imagination. Do you find his arguments convincing? | 7
9 | KU
AE |
| | (30) | |

[Turn over

Section 4 – Moral Philosophy

Marks Code

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

Question 7

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

A surgeon is approached one day by a young man. The young man is in very good health. He tells the doctor that several members of his family are in danger of dying because they need organ transplants urgently. The young man asks the doctor to give him a painless but lethal injection, then take his organs and use them to save his relatives. If the doctor refuses, the young man says he will go to a ‘back-street’ doctor who has agreed to ‘have a go’ at the operations for a small price.

Critically examine possible Utilitarian responses to this situation. **15** **KU**
15 **AE**
(30)

Question 8

- (a) What does Kant mean by Contradiction in Conception? **2** **KU**
- (b) What does Kant mean by Contradiction in the Will? **2** **KU**
- (c) State **three** criticisms of Kant’s moral theory. **6** **AE**
(10)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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