

N5

National Qualifications

2026

Philosophy

Friday, 29 May

Instructions to Candidates

Candidates should enter their surname, forename(s), date of birth, Scottish candidate number and the name and level of the subject at the top of their first answer sheet.

Total marks — 80

Attempt ALL questions.

SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 20 marks

SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

You must clearly identify the question number you are attempting on your answer sheet.

Marks are shown in square brackets at the end of each question or part question.

An ow in the margin indicates a new question.

**[Braille page 2] SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 20 marks**

Attempt ALL questions

ow 1. (a) State the purpose of an argument. (2 print lines) [1 mark]

ow (b) State the defining feature of a statement. (2 print lines) [1 mark]

ow (c) Identify, using the letters from A to G, the passages that do not contain arguments. [4 marks]

A: Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland. Glasgow is Scotland's biggest city.

B: Glasgow is a much more fun city for young people than Edinburgh. And it's less windy!

C: If you want to have a fun night out then you should go to Glasgow. It is much cheaper than Edinburgh. There is a wider choice of things to do.

D: There are about 50 miles between Edinburgh and Glasgow. This means it will take at least half an hour to travel between them.

E: Glasgow and Edinburgh have both been built on wealth from the trade in enslaved people. This history is found in some of the street names in both cities.

**[Braille page 3] F:** There are only two cities in Scotland. Therefore, if you want to live in a Scottish city you must live in either Glasgow or Edinburgh.

G: Edinburgh has the largest arts festival in the world, however Glasgow has more cultural diversity. Edinburgh is more picturesque, but Glasgow is friendlier.

**[Braille page 4] (d)** Read the following argument:

Eric must have taken my bag. It could only have been taken by Eric or Camille. There's no way Camille would have done that, and Eric's had a guilty look on his face all afternoon. Trust no-one!

ow (i) Explain whether this is a valid argument. Your answer should include a definition of validity. (18 print lines) [2 marks]

(ii) A student has attempted to put this passage into standard form, but has made some errors.

P1: Eric must have taken my bag.

P2: My bag could only have been taken by Eric or Camille.

P3: There's no way Camille would have done that.

P4: Eric's had a guilty look on his face all afternoon.

C: Trust no-one!

Now Identify three errors the student has made. (16 print lines) [3 marks]

(e) What is the conclusion of each of the arguments below?

Now (i) Buses take ages and are very uncomfortable for long journeys. Seeing as flying is much faster, travelling to London is better on the plane than on **[Braille page 5]** the bus. (2 print lines) [1 mark]

Now (ii) Buses are much cheaper than trains. Therefore, if you want to have more spending money then you should take **[the bus.** (2 print lines) [1 mark]

Now (iii) You'll have to take the train. You can only get there by bus or train and, since the road is closed, the bus isn't running today. (2 print lines) [1 mark]

(f) Read the following two arguments:

Either you get the bus to London or you get the train. The trains are cancelled due to a rail strike. Therefore you will have to take the bus.

If you're travelling to the island of Barra then you can either go by sea or air. Since you get really badly seasick, you'll have to take the plane.

Now Explain why the first argument contains a false dilemma fallacy and the second argument does not. (17 print lines) [3 marks]

Now (g) (i) Describe the illegitimate appeal to authority fallacy. (10 print lines) [2 marks]

The graphic has been removed, it showed Claire and Fraser having the following **[Braille page 6]** conversation.

Claire: You look terrible! What's up with you?

Fraser: I was feeling awful in my piano lesson, and my piano teacher said I have a cold. So I must have a cold.

Claire: What do they know? They are an expert in music, not viruses.

Now (ii) Why is Fraser's argument not an illegitimate appeal to authority? (6 print lines) [1 mark]

**[Braille page 7]** SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Now 2. (a) State the three criteria of the tripartite theory of knowledge. (1 print line) [1 mark]

Now (b) Explain the relationship between these criteria in the definition of knowledge. (10 print lines) [2 marks]

Now (c) Explain why sceptics claim that the criteria of the tripartite theory of knowledge can't be met. (12 print lines) [3 marks]

ow (d) Match up two correct statements with each philosopher by writing in the appropriate letters. [4 marks]

- A. We have some innate ideas.
- B. The mind is like a piece of veined marble at birth.
- C. We can never know anything.
- D. The mind is a blank slate at birth.
- E. Knowledge is inherited from our parents.
- F. All knowledge comes from experience.

Locke: (2 print lines)

Leibniz: (2 print lines)

**[Braille page 8]** ow (e) As a rationalist, what did Descartes think was the foundation of knowledge? (2 print lines) [1 mark]

(f) Select one of Descartes' sceptical arguments.

ow (i) Name the argument. (1 print line) [1 mark]

ow (ii) Describe the argument. (17 print lines) [3 marks]

ow (iii) Explain one criticism of the argument. Criticisms may be strengths and/or weaknesses. (21 print lines) [3 marks]

Hume uses different categories of examples to support his claim that you cannot have an idea if you do not have the corresponding impression. State an example for each of the categories below.

ow (g) (i) Malfunctioning senses: (3 print lines) [1 mark]

ow (ii) Absence of relevant experiences: (3 print lines) [1 mark]

ow (iii) Absence due to species limitation: (3 print lines) [1 mark]

**[Braille page 9]** ow (h) (i) Describe Hume's missing shade of blue (his counterexample to his claim that you cannot have an idea if you do not have the corresponding impression). (19 print lines) [4 marks]

ow (ii) Explain why Hume dismisses this counterexample. (5 print lines) [1 mark]

ow (iii) Do you think Hume is right to dismiss the missing shade of blue? Give reasons for your answer. (16 print lines) [4 marks]

**[Braille page 10]** SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

ow 3. (a) Describe the key features of utilitarianism. (20 print lines) [6 marks]

ow (b) You have studied another moral theory as well as utilitarianism. Describe the key features of your other moral theory. (22 print lines) [6 marks]

(c) Read the scenario and answer the questions that follow.

Violent mobs are searching for somebody they believe is guilty of a terrible crime. As a result, society is in chaos. You have the power to stop the chaos by sending an innocent person to jail for the crime.

ow (i) What advice would a utilitarian give you in the above scenario? (17 print lines) [6 marks]

ow (ii) With reference to the scenario in 3 (c) (i), explain two criticisms of utilitarianism. Criticisms may be strengths and/or weaknesses. (21 print lines) [6 marks]

**[Braille page 11]** ow (iii) What advice would a follower of your other moral theory give you in response to the scenario in 3 (c) (i)? (21 print lines) [6 marks]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]