



FOR OFFICIAL USE

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National
Qualifications
2026

Mark

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X854/75/01**Philosophy**

FRIDAY, 29 MAY

9:00 AM – 11:20 AM



Fill in these boxes and read what is printed below.

Full name of centre

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Town

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Forename(s)

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Surname

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Number of seat

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Date of birth

Day

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Month

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Year

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Scottish candidate number

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Total marks — 80**SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 20 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided in this booklet. Additional space for answers is provided at the end of this booklet. If you use this space you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Do not remove any exam materials. You must leave this booklet on your desk; if you do not, you could lose all the marks for this paper.



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SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions

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1. (a) State the purpose of an argument.

1

- (b) State the defining feature of a statement.

1

- (c) Tick (✓) the passages that **do not** contain arguments.

4

- ☐ Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland. Glasgow is Scotland's biggest city.
- ☐ Glasgow is a much more fun city for young people than Edinburgh. And it's less windy!
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ There are about 50 miles between Edinburgh and Glasgow. This means it will take at least half an hour to travel between them.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Edinburgh has the largest arts festival in the world, however Glasgow has more cultural diversity. Edinburgh is more picturesque, but Glasgow is friendlier.

[Turn over



* X 8 5 4 7 5 0 1 0 3 *

1. (continued)

(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!

(i) Explain whether this is a valid argument. Your answer should include a definition of validity.

2

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1. (d) (continued)

- (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!

Identify **three** errors the student has made.

3

[illegible]

[Turn over



1. (continued)

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

- (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 the bus.

1

- (ii) Buses are much cheaper than trains. Therefore, if you want to have more spending money then you should take the bus.

1

- (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.

1



1. (continued)

(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.

Explain why the first argument contains a false dilemma fallacy and the second argument does not.

3

[illegible]

[Turn over



1. (continued)

- (g) (i) Describe the illegitimate appeal to authority fallacy.

2

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* X 8 5 4 7 5 0 1 0 8 *

1. (g) (continued)



(ii) Why is Fraser's argument not an illegitimate appeal to authority?

1

[Turn over

Attempt ALL questions

- 1

- 2

[illegible]

2. (continued)

- (c) Explain why sceptics claim that the criteria of the tripartite theory of knowledge can't be met.

3

[illegible]

- (d) Match up **two** correct statements with each philosopher by writing in the appropriate letters.

4

- 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: _____

Leibniz:

[Turn over



2. (continued)

(e) As a rationalist, what did Descartes think was the foundation of knowledge?

1

(f) Select one of Descartes' sceptical arguments.

(i) Name the argument.

1

(ii) Describe the argument.

3



2. (f) (continued)

(iii) Explain **one** criticism of the argument. Criticisms may be strengths and/or weaknesses.

3

[illegible]

[Turn over



2. (continued)

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.

(g) (i) Malfunctioning senses:

1

(ii) Absence of relevant experiences:

1

(iii) Absence due to species limitation:

1



2. (continued)

- (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).

4

[Turn over



2. (h) (continued)

1

4

[illegible]

SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

3. (a) Describe the key features of utilitarianism.

6

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[Turn over



(b) You have studied another moral theory as well as utilitarianism. Describe the key features of your other moral theory.

[illegible]

3. (continued)

- (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.

- (i) What advice would a utilitarian give you in the above scenario?

6

[illegible]

[Turn over



3. (c) (continued)

(ii) With reference to the scenario in 3 (c) (i), explain **two** criticisms of utilitarianism. Criticisms may be strengths and/or weaknesses.

6

[illegible]

3. (c) (continued)

(iii) What advice would a follower of your other moral theory give you in response to the scenario in 3 (c) (i)?

6

[illegible]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]



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ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ANSWERS

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