



National  
Qualifications  
2025

**X854/76/12**

**Philosophy  
Paper 2**

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY

1:30 PM – 3:15 PM

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**Total marks — 50**

**SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 30 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

**SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 10 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

**SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 10 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

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

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

*‘This beautiful and wonderful world couldn’t just come about by chance. Consider it for yourself! Surely the beauty and wonder of our planet suggests a creator God. God must exist.’*

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|---|---|
| (a) Identify a statement from the passage.                              | 1 |
| (b) Give a definition of an argument.                                   | 1 |
| (c) Is there an argument in the passage? Give a reason for your answer. | 1 |

2. Read the following argument and answer the questions that follow:

*P1. All birds can fly.*

*P2. A penguin is a bird.*

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*C. Penguins can fly.*

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|---|---|
| (a) Are both of the premises in this argument acceptable? Give reasons for your answer.   | 2 |
| (b) If the premises of this deductive argument were true, would they be sufficient to draw the conclusion? Explain your answer. | 1 |
| (c) What kind of argument diagram would best represent this argument?   | 1 |

3. Read the following argument and answer the questions that follow:

*‘Children need to go to school for their overall development. The idea is straightforward — schools provide opportunities to acquire not only academic knowledge but also social skills. Children also learn teamwork and problem-solving there, which are important for success in adulthood.’*

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|---|---|
| (a) Put this argument into standard form.   | 3 |
| (b) What is the definition of a valid argument?   | 1 |
| (c) Explain why the above argument is not valid. You must refer to the argument in your answer. | 1 |

4. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

*'You notice that every time you feed your cat, they start purring and rubbing against your leg. Based on these observations, you conclude that the next time you feed your cat they will begin purring and rubbing against your leg.'*

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|---|---|
| (a) Explain why this is an example of inductive reasoning.        | 1 |
| (b) What would determine the inductive strength of this argument? | 2 |

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|--|---|
| 5. Give a definition of confirmation bias. | 2 |
|--|---|

6. Read the following argument and answer the questions that follow:

*'My priest said that animals are placed on Earth for our use and benefit. She says that it is our God-given right to use them for food, clothing and other necessities. Therefore, it's fine to eat steaks and wear leather.'*

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|---|---|
| (a) Define a fallacious appeal to authority.  | 1 |
| (b) State <b>one</b> of the criteria required for an appeal to authority to be considered appropriate.    | 1 |
| (c) Discuss whether the appeal to authority in the argument is appropriate. Give reasons for your answer. | 2 |

[Turn over

7. Read the following argument, which some people may think contains a fallacious appeal to emotion:

*'I'm really stressed. I have so much going on this week. There's the school show on Thursday and Friday and at the weekend I'm working. On top of all that, I've just broken up with my girlfriend and I'm really upset. The deadline for my assignment is on Monday. Put yourself in my shoes and think how you'd feel. I should get an extension to my assignment deadline.'*

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|---|---|
| (a) Describe the appeal to emotion fallacy.   | 1 |
| (b) Explain whether you think the argument above contains a fallacious appeal to emotion. | 1 |

8. Read the following argument, which some people may think contains a fallacy:

*'You wake up one morning with a sore throat after having ice cream the night before. You conclude that eating ice cream caused your sore throat.'*

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|---|---|
| (a) Name the fallacy.   | 1 |
| (b) Describe this fallacy.  | 1 |
| (c) Explain whether you think the argument above contains this fallacy, giving reasons for your answer. | 2 |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 9. (a) What is the distinction between a formal and informal fallacy?               | 2 |
| (b) Give an example of an argument that commits the denying the antecedent fallacy. | 1 |

## SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 10 marks

Attempt ALL questions

## DESCARTES

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|---|---|
| 10. Define what Descartes means by clear perceptions.   | 1 |
| 11. Define what Descartes means by distinct perceptions.                                      | 1 |
| 12. State the clear and distinct rule.  | 1 |
| 13. Why does Descartes think he needs the idea of God to support the clear and distinct rule? | 1 |
| 14. Evaluate Descartes' use of the clear and distinct rule.                                   | 6 |

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## SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 10 marks

Attempt ALL questions

## UTILITARIANISM

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|-----|--|---|
| 15. | Explain how the hedonic calculus is used to calculate pleasure and make moral decisions. | 4 |
| 16. | Evaluate the use of the hedonic calculus in making moral decisions.                      | 6 |

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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