

X237/301

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2008

THURSDAY, 22 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

Marks Code

Critical Thinking in Philosophy

Question 1

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

- (a) Explain the difference between a statement and an argument. Support your answer with a clear example of each. 3 KU
- (b) Which of the following is **not** an essential feature of any argument?
- (1) A conclusion that is true if the premises are true
 - (2) A conclusion that is intended to follow from the premises
 - (3) At least one premise that is intended as support for the conclusion
 - (4) The intention that the premise or premises imply the conclusion
- 1 KU

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Really, it's quite simple. Pirate Jack cannot have stolen the treasure, for if he had stolen it he would still have had some of it with him when he landed at Paradise Cove. I know Toothless Mary said that she had seen Jack that morning coming out of the cave where the treasure had been hidden, but everyone knows Mary is a "nasty piece of work". Apart from Mary, no one else came forward to say anything against him. Besides, Jack was no thief. Sure he was a bit of a rogue but that's why people liked him so much.

- (c) What is the conclusion of this argument? 1 AE
- (d) Identify **three** premises in this argument. 3 AE
- (e) Suggest **one** hidden premise that might be at work in this argument and explain its role in the argument. 2 AE
- (f) What is meant by the fallacy of "attacking the person"? Support your answer with an appropriate example of your own. 3 KU
- (g) From the passage above, identify a fallacy of "attacking the person". 2 AE
- (h) What is meant by a circular argument? Support your answer with an appropriate example of your own. 3 KU
- (i) Discuss whether or not the passage above contains a circular argument. 2 AE

(20)

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.)

“. . . as to the gods, I have no means of knowing either that they exist or do not exist.”

Protagoras

Do you consider agnosticism to be a reasonable response to the question of God’s existence?

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?**”)

“Liberty and necessity are consistent . . .”

Hobbes, Leviathan XXXI

Do you agree with this compatibilist claim? Give reasons for your answer.

10 KU

10 AE

(20)

[Turn over

Section 3 – Epistemology

Marks Code

Question 4

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

- (a) Give an example of a knowledge claim and state how it satisfies the “tripartite theory of knowledge”. 4 KU
- (b) What difficulty does the problem of accidental correctness pose for the tripartite theory of knowledge? Give an example to support your answer. 6 KU
- (10)

Either

Question 5

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

Read the statement below then answer both parts of the question (**a and b**).

Thus, after everything has been most carefully weighed, it must finally be established that this pronouncement “I am, I exist” is necessarily true every time I utter it or conceive it in my mind.

- (a) Why does Descartes believe the statement “I am, I exist” to be “necessarily true”? 10 KU
- (b) Does the statement “I am, I exist” provide a certain foundation for knowledge? 20 AE
- (30)

Or

Question 6

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

Read the statement below then answer both parts of this question (**a and b**).

Every one will readily allow, that there is a considerable difference between the perceptions of the mind, when a man feels the pain of excessive heat, or the pleasure of moderate warmth, and when he afterwards recalls to his memory this sensation, or anticipates it by his imagination.

- (a) Describe Hume’s theory of the “perceptions of the mind”. 10 KU
- (b) How adequate is Hume’s theory of perception? 20 AE
- (30)

Section 4 – Moral Philosophy

Marks Code

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

Question 7

Discuss the contribution of Bentham and of Mill to Utilitarianism.

15 KU

15 AE

(30)

Question 8

(a) What is meant by Emotivism?

5 KU

(b) What criticisms can be made of this position?

5 AE

(10)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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