

X268/301

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2011

TUESDAY, 24 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 – Critical Thinking in Philosophy

Marks Code

Question 1

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

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|----|
| (a) | State the difference between a statement and a command. | 1 | KU |
| (b) | Can an argument have a valid conclusion? Give a reason for your answer. | 3 | KU |
| (c) | What makes an argument invalid? Support your answer with an example. | 2 | KU |
| (d) | What features does an inductive argument need to ensure that it is cogent? | 2 | KU |

Consider the following argument.

God doesn't exist. If God did exist then he would be all knowing and perfectly good. But, if God were perfectly good then he would never have experienced what it is like to feel greed. On the other hand, if God were all knowing then he would know what it is like to feel greed. So, if God did exist then he would both know and not know greed. So, there you are. Proved!

adapted from Michael Martin *A Disproof of God's Existence*
in *Darshana* 10 (1970): 22–26

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|----|
| (e) | Show the structure of this argument by re-writing it in standard form clearly labelling its premises and any conclusions. | 4 | AE |
| (f) | Is this argument inductive or deductive? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 | AE |
| (g) | What is wrong with arguments which commit the fallacy of post hoc ergo propter hoc? Support your answer with an example. | 2 | KU |

Consider the following argument.

If each man had a definite set of rules of conduct by which he regulated his life he would be no better than a machine. But there are no such rules, so men cannot be machines.

Alan Turing

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|----|
| (h) | Identify the fallacy committed in this argument. | 1 | AE |
| (i) | Explain why this example fails to prove its conclusion. | 1 | AE |
| (j) | Is this a formal or informal fallacy? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 | 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.)

Discuss the Cosmological Argument for 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?**”)

The human brain processes information. We don't know how the brain works but it has inputs and outputs just like a computer. It makes no more sense to say that humans are free and responsible than it does to say that my computer is free and responsible for what it does.

Discuss this philosophical 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 do Locke and Leibniz differ in their approach to innate ideas? | 5 | KU |
| (b) How successful is the claim that there are innate ideas? | 5 | AE |
| | (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.)

- | | | |
|---|------|----|
| (a) Describe the arguments Descartes uses to arrive at a position of universal doubt in Meditation One. | 10 | KU |
| (b) How effective are Descartes' sceptical arguments in Meditation One? | 6 | AE |
| (c) Critically evaluate the claim that the <i>cogito</i> is beyond doubt. | 5 | KU |
| | 9 | AE |
| | (30) | |

Or

Question 6

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

- | | | |
|--|------|----|
| (a) Describe how Hume supports his claim that all ideas derive from impressions. | 10 | KU |
| (b) How effective are Hume's arguments that all ideas derive from impressions? | 6 | AE |
| (c) How convincing is Hume's argument concerning the missing shade of blue? | 5 | KU |
| | 9 | AE |
| | (30) | |

Section 4 – Moral Philosophy

Marks Code

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

Question 7

There is nothing good about Utilitarianism. According to this terrible philosophy the only thing wrong with an act of violence is that there are not enough people standing around enjoying it.

To what extent is this a fair criticism of Utilitarianism? In your answer you should consider how a utilitarian might respond to this accusation.

15 KU
15 AE
(30)

Question 8

(a) State **two** different formulations of the Categorical Imperative.

4 KU

According to Kant we have an imperfect duty to help those in need.

(b) What is the difference between a perfect duty and an imperfect duty?

2 KU

(c) According to Kantian ethics why do we have a duty to help the poor?

4 AE
(10)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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