



National  
Qualifications  
2021 ASSESSMENT RESOURCE

**X854/76/11**

**Philosophy  
Paper 1**

Duration — 2 hours 15 minutes

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**Total marks — 60**

**SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks**

Attempt ONE question.

**SECTION 2 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks**

Attempt ONE question.

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.



\* X 8 5 4 7 6 1 1 \*



## SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

## Attempt ONE question

1. Read the following extract and answer the question which follows.

*Present an object to a man whose skill and intelligence are as great as you like; if the object is of a kind that is entirely new to him, no amount of studying of its perceptible qualities will enable him to discover any of its causes or effects. Adam, even if his reasoning abilities were perfect from the start, could not have inferred from the fluidity and transparency of water that it could drown him, or from the light and warmth of fire that it could burn him.*

**Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding Section IV Part 1**

Explain and evaluate Hume's theory of cause and effect.

In your answer you could include discussion of the following

- relations of ideas (*a priori* knowledge) and matters of fact (*a posteriori* knowledge)
- Hume's theory of cause and effect
- the examples Hume uses to support his theory of cause and effect, for example, billiard balls
- how successful Hume's theory of cause and effect is.

30

OR

2. Read the following extract and answer the question which follows.

*. . . in order to remove even this slight reason for doubt, as soon as the opportunity arises I must examine whether there is a God, and, if there is, whether he can be a deceiver. For if I do not know this, it seems that I can never be quite certain about anything else.*

**René Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditation III**

Explain and evaluate Descartes' attempt to prove God's existence in order to find certainty.

In your answer you could include discussion of the following

- clear and distinct perceptions
- the trademark argument including discussion of the causal adequacy principle
- evaluation of Descartes' attempts to prove the existence of God
- how successful Descartes is in using God to find certainty.

30

## SECTION 2 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

## Attempt ONE question

3. Read the following situation and answer the question that follows.

*A proposal has been submitted for a power station to be built in your area. It will provide cheap electricity and support industry in your area. You and your family could directly benefit from this because it will create hundreds of different jobs and electricity bills will be cut in half. However, as it will be powered by fossil fuels, it will cause air pollution and contribute to global warming over time.*

As a Councillor you have to vote on whether or not to support this proposal.

Would Utilitarianism help you to make this decision?

In your answer you could include the following

- a description of classical Utilitarianism
- an explanation of how Utilitarians say we should make moral decisions
- application of Utilitarian ethics to this scenario
- evaluation of Utilitarian ethics in relation to this scenario.

30

OR

4. Read the following quotation and answer the question that follows.

*'Utilitarianism could be used to justify any action if there are enough people around to enjoy it.'*

To what extent do you consider this criticism to be fair?

In your answer you could include the following

- a description of classical Utilitarianism
- an explanation of how Utilitarians say we should make moral decisions
- discussion of how the criticism applies to Utilitarian ethics
- evaluation of Utilitarian ethics in relation to this criticism.

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[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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