



National
Qualifications
2026

X854/76/11

**Philosophy
Paper 1**

FRIDAY, 29 MAY

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Total marks — 60

SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt the 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.

You must leave your answer booklet on your desk; if you do not, you could lose all the marks for this paper.



 **Qualifications
Scotland**
Teisteanasan Alba

SECTION 1 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt the question

1. Is Hume successful in arguing that experience is the basis for all knowledge?

Throughout his *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* Hume aims to explain how we acquire knowledge solely through experience. He does this by explaining:

- the distinction between impressions and ideas
- the role of the imagination in creating complex ideas
- the copy principle
- the role of reason in our knowledge of cause and effect
- how we arrive at knowledge of cause and effect.

In your answer you may refer to some or all of the content above.

Your essay should do the following:

- describe your selected material
- discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Hume's theory
- evaluate how effectively Hume uses experience as a foundation for knowledge.

30

SECTION 2 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ONE question

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

Dave was a university student with a promising career in finance ahead. After a lecture on utilitarianism, when he learned about the Greatest Happiness Principle, he decided to sell all of his possessions and buy malaria nets to distribute in countries that would benefit from them. This significantly reduced the suffering of thousands of people.

Analyse and evaluate how a utilitarian might judge Dave's actions.

In your answer you could include the following:

- an explanation of how utilitarianism says we should make moral decisions
- discussion of whether utilitarianism requires actions like Dave's
 - if it does, is it an acceptable moral theory?
 - if it doesn't, why not?
- evaluation of utilitarianism in relation to this situation.

30

OR

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

'The greatest happiness for the greatest number sounds obviously right, but it can lead to unfair and morally questionable decisions.'

To what extent is this a fair comment on utilitarianism? Consider how a utilitarian might respond to this comment.

In your answer you could include the following:

- an explanation of how utilitarianism says we should make moral decisions
- discussion of how the comment applies to utilitarianism
- evaluation of utilitarianism in relation to this quotation.

30

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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