



National
Qualifications
2026

X854/76/12

**Philosophy
Paper 2**

FRIDAY, 29 MAY

12:30 PM – 2:15 PM

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.

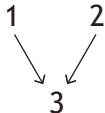
Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

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

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



Attempt ALL questions

1. (a) What distinguishes statements from other types of sentences, such as questions, commands and exclamations? 1
- (b) What is a premise? 1
- (c) What is a conclusion? 1
2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.
- 'We should spend more time reading books. Reading improves our vocabulary and helps us think more critically. Unlike watching television, it actively engages the mind and fosters imagination. By reading regularly, we can become more knowledgeable and creative.'*
- (a) What is the main conclusion of this argument? 1
- (b) Rewrite the premise below as if you were putting the above argument into standard form. 1
- 'Unlike watching television, it actively engages the mind and fosters imagination.'*
- (c) *'Reading improves our vocabulary and helps us think more critically.'*
Is this premise acceptable? 1
Give a reason for your answer.
3. Give an example of an argument that is represented by the following diagrams.
- (a)  1
- (b)  1
4. State which **one** of the following inference indicators typically signals a conclusion. 1
- A Since
- B Consequently
- C Because
- D For example

5. (a) Which **one** of the following statements is correct? 1
- A Deductive arguments always rely on statistical data.
 - B Deductive arguments aim to guarantee the conclusion if the premises are true.
 - C Inductive arguments are valid in all cases.
 - D Inductive arguments never involve linked premises.
- (b) *'The school bus has come every day this year at 3 o'clock. Therefore, it will come at 3 o'clock tomorrow.'*
- Explain why this is an inductive argument. 2
6. Which **one** of the following statements is a feature of confirmation bias? 1
- A Rejecting premises that seem implausible.
 - B Ignoring information that contradicts one's own beliefs.
 - C Constructing strong analogical arguments.
 - D Determining deductive validity.
 - E Confirming that a premise is true.
7. (a) Explain why the following statement is incorrect: 2
- 'If the premises of an argument are true and the conclusion is true, the argument must be valid.'*
- (b) Give **two** reasons why the following argument is invalid: 2
- P1: If it is raining, the ground will be wet.*
- P2: The ground is wet.*
-
- C: Therefore, it is raining.*
8. Consider the following argument:
- 'Premise: Streaming services make it easier than ever to access TV programmes.*
Conclusion: Therefore, traditional TV channels will soon become a thing of the past.'
- (a) Why is this premise not sufficient to establish the conclusion? 1
- (b) There are many ways to strengthen this argument. Suggest a premise that would add support to the conclusion. 1

[Turn over

9. *'My boyfriend said he would give me a ring on Saturday, but all I got was a phone call. Therefore, I can't trust him.'*
- (a) Explain the ambiguity in this argument. 1
- (b) Name the type of ambiguity present in this argument. 1
- (c) Explain how the ambiguity affects the probability of this argument's conclusion. 2
10. Explain whether the following appeal to authority is legitimate or fallacious: 3
- 'Dr. Smith, a leading heart doctor, says that her new heart medication is effective. Therefore, we should believe it works.'*
11. Give a definition of a post hoc ergo propter hoc fallacy. No marks will be awarded for examples. 2
12. *'You can't trust her argument that we should be concerned about climate change because she flies on private jets and they are a major cause of carbon emissions.'*
- (a) Why is the ad hominem reasoning in this argument fallacious? 1
- (b) Identify the type of ad hominem in the above argument. 1

SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 10 marks

Attempt ALL questions

DESCARTES

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 13. | What is the Cogito? | 1 |
| 14. | In Meditation 2, how does Descartes arrive at the Cogito? | 3 |
| 15. | How convincing is Descartes' claim that the Cogito provides a secure foundation for knowledge? | 6 |

[Turn over

SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 10 marks

Attempt ALL questions

KANT

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|-----|--|---|
| 16. | Explain Kant's use of the categorical imperative to establish our moral duties. | 6 |
| 17. | How effective is the categorical imperative as a process to establish the correct moral actions? | 4 |

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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