

Commentary on candidate evidence

The evidence for these candidates has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component.

Candidate 1

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **16/30 marks**.

The candidate showed knowledge and understanding of some key aspects of Hume's text, such as the distinction between impressions and ideas and inward and outward impressions. They get this mostly correct but are not completely accurate in their description of the distinction between simple and complex impressions/ideas. Their descriptions also lack detail. The candidate explained the processes of the imagination and used many examples but some other key concepts were not discussed. For example, they did not explain Hume's arguments to support the copy principle nor did they discuss the missing shade of blue.

The candidate also provided some relevant points of evaluation, although these are superficial and would not stand up to scrutiny against Hume's philosophy. For example, the point about the fear of the dentist being more vivid than the corresponding impression is problematic because the fear would be an inward impression for Hume and not an idea.

Candidate 2

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **19/30 marks**.

The candidate provided a relevant, mainly accurate and detailed description of Hume's distinction between impressions and ideas. The candidate explained Hume's arguments for the copy principle and clearly addressed the question asked.

They provided a description of the missing shade of blue and why it may be problematic for Hume. They did not, however, pick out some of the more nuanced aspects of this position, such as the fact a colour is a simple idea for Hume and thus requires a corresponding impression for its creation, which a more sophisticated answer might identify.

The candidate gave several well-explained evaluative comments in relation to the missing shade of blue and how successful it is as a counter-example to Hume's position.

Candidate 3

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **5/30 marks**.

The candidate provided a very limited response which lacked detail or accuracy. They provided a minimal amount of accurate information and the structure of the essay is confused, such that it is difficult to follow any clear line of argument.

Candidate 4

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **30/30 marks**.

The candidate provided an excellent response to this question. Their answer is detailed, clear and accurate. It shows an in depth understanding of the distinction between impressions and ideas and, the relationship Hume draws between them. The candidate also explained clearly the distinction between simple and complex impressions and ideas. The candidate's description showed an understanding of how Hume's arguments work together to develop his complex philosophical position. In particular, their explanation of the missing shade of blue and the groundwork Hume does to show why colour must be a simple idea, shows a deep understanding.

This candidate provided a thorough evaluation of several aspects of Hume's theory of impressions and ideas, from the missing shade of blue to the force and liveliness distinction, as well as his arguments for the copy principle. The evaluative comments are part of a discussion and there is a clear line of reasoning presented throughout this essay.