

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each skill, knowledge and understanding in the assignment.

Candidate 1

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because their assignment was very heavy on description. They have actually made ten points that would have been worthy of marks under this heading, but there is a maximum of 6 marks available here.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 6 marks** because there are three points of analysis in this assignment:

- ◆ The example of winning the lottery near the bottom of the first page of their assignment **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ Lower pleasures don't give any personal growth **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The use of Mill's quote, 'it is better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied' to support and further explain the point above **(1 mark)**.

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 6 marks** because they have made three simple points involving criticisms relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim:

- ◆ Utilitarians are right about the impact of our actions on others, and that we need to think about this before we act **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The problem that an action may have good outcomes in the short term but very bad outcomes in the long run – how do we determine if it is good or bad? **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The explanation of the problem of the tyranny of the majority **(1 mark)**.

Although the candidate did attempt to list further strengths of utilitarianism near the bottom of their second page, they haven't explained what it is about these

things that makes them strengths. For that reason they were not awarded any marks for this material.

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 2 marks** because they have made a justified concluding remark that is consistent with the body of their assignment.

The candidate was awarded a total of **13 out of 20 marks**.

Candidate 2

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because their assignment was very heavy on description. They have actually made 18 points that would have been worthy of marks under this heading, but there is a maximum of 6 marks available here.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 6 marks** because there is only one point of analysis in this assignment:

- ◆ The maxim 'Always kill' would create a contradiction in conception, meaning we have a perfect duty not to follow that maxim (**1 mark**).

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 6 marks** because they have only made one point involving criticisms relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim. This comes under the heading 'Criticisms of Kant', where the candidate suggests that visiting their grandparents out of duty rather than love seems to make the action less morally valuable.

Although the candidate has listed a number of criticisms of utilitarianism, these are simply listed and not explained. For that reason the candidate was not awarded any marks for this material.

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 2 marks** because they have made a justified concluding remark that is consistent with the body of their assignment.

The candidate was awarded a total of **9 out of 20 marks**.

Candidate 3

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because their assignment shows a thorough understanding of the material they have engaged with. There are at least 12 points that could have been awarded marks in this section, but there is a maximum of 6 marks available here.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because they have engaged in analysis throughout their assignment. There are at least 11 points that could have been awarded marks in this section. (Note that if a candidate has not been awarded all of the description marks, then their extra analysis marks can be awarded as description. Extra description marks can never count as analysis.)

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because they have made several concise, sophisticated and well-explained points involving criticisms relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim in the second-last paragraphs on both the second-last and last pages of their assignment.

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** because they have made a justified concluding remark that is consistent with the body of their assignment and have presented a connected line of argument throughout.

The candidate was awarded a total of **20 out of 20 marks**.

Candidate 4

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because their assignment was very heavy on description. They have actually made several more points that would have been worthy of marks under this heading, but there is a maximum of 6 marks available here.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 6 marks** because there are four points of analysis in this assignment:

- ◆ The explanation of Leibniz's marble metaphor **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The section on the subjectivity of experience **(2 marks)**.
- ◆ The explanation of the cogito being necessarily true **(1 mark)**.

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 6 marks** because they have made four points involving criticisms relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim. These come at the bottom of the first, second and third pages of their assignment, with 2 marks being awarded for the two separate points that are discussed at the end of the second page.

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 2 marks** because their concluding remarks are neither justified nor supported by the body of their assignment.

The candidate was awarded a total of **14 out of 20 marks**.

Candidate 5

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 6 marks** because they have made three descriptive points relating to their chosen philosophical question or claim:

- ◆ The description of impressions and ideas (**1 mark**).
- ◆ The explanation of complex ideas (**1 mark**).

Although the candidate has made several other correct points, these have been copied from their resource sheet and so could not be awarded any marks.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 6 marks** because there are three points of analysis in their assignment:

- ◆ Hume's observation of his own mind in place of philosophical method (**1 mark**).
- ◆ The example of the complex idea of a huge lizard (**1 mark**).
- ◆ The experiment where children try to explain colour to a blind man (**1 mark**).

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 6 marks** because the candidate has explained one criticism relating to their chosen philosophical question or claim at the end of their second-last paragraph.

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 2 marks** because they have not made a justified (true) concluding remark.

The candidate was awarded a total of **6 out of 20 marks**.

Candidate 6

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because their assignment was very heavy on description. They have actually made 11 points that would have been worthy of marks under this heading, but there is a maximum of 6 marks available here. The candidate made some further points that were copied from their resource sheet and so could not have been awarded any marks.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 6 marks** because there are three points of analysis in their assignment:

- ◆ The example of faces in dreams **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The point that a world outside of our dreams must exist for us to base our dreams on **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The brain in the vat example **(1 mark)**.

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 6 marks** because they have presented the cogito as a weakness to the evil demon hypothesis.

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 2 marks** because their justified concluding remark, that is consistent with the body of their assignment, was copied from their resource sheet and so could not be awarded any marks.

The candidate was awarded a total of **10 out of 20 marks**.

Candidate 7

A: Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because their assignment demonstrates a strong understanding of the responses to their philosophical question or claim. They have actually made nine points that would have been worthy of marks under this heading, but there is a maximum of 6 marks available here.

B: Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because there are at least six points of analysis. Where this candidate has signposted analysis they have not picked up any analysis marks. However, their analysis is woven through their assignment and they have made more points that were required to get full marks in this section:

- ◆ The second half of the second paragraph – ‘The harsh consequence of this is that ...deeper understanding of human behaviours and intentions.’ **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The point that Rousseau’s belief that humans are selfless commits him to altruism **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The second-last sentence in the first paragraph on the second page of their assignment – ‘Whether it be returning a lost item to its owner ...’ **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The point that Hobbes’ belief that humans are naturally selfish commits him to egoism **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The point that as Hobbes is an empiricist he uses experience to support his argument **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ The first paragraph on the third page – ‘The biggest similarity between these arguments ...only looking out for themselves.’ **(2 marks)**.

C: Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** because they have made six points relating to criticisms:

- ◆ At the end of the first and second paragraphs on the second page of the assignment – ‘All of this does show that humans can be naturally be selfish’ and ‘through his examination ...egotistical by nature’ **(2 marks)**.
- ◆ In the second paragraph on the third page of the assignment, where the candidate notes that there are many examples throughout history that show egoism to be false **(1 mark)**; considers Hobbes’ view that we don’t know enough about people’s intentions to reject egoism **(1 mark)**; and Hobbes’ use of empiricism to support his argument **(1 mark)**.

- ◆ In the third paragraph on the third page of the assignment, where the candidate notes that Hobbes' view of the state of nature is more realistic than Rousseau's (**1 mark**).

D: Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** because they have made a justified concluding remark that is consistent with the body of their assignment and presented a connected line of argument throughout.

The candidate was awarded a total of **20 out of 20 marks**.