

Candidate 4 evidence

2. (continued)

- (i) Describe Hume's distinction between impressions and ideas.

3

An ~~idea~~ impression is lively and Vivid. Whereas an idea is less lively and Vivid. An impression is based on ^{a perception} ~~what we perceive~~. Whereas an idea is based on remembering a perception. For example an impression is feeling heat Whereas an idea is remembering feeling heat.

2. (continued)

- (i) The role of the imagination is important in understanding Hume's distinction between simple and complex ideas.

- (i) Describe how Hume thinks we use the imagination to create complex ideas.

You must refer to the idea of God in your answer.

6

Hume thinks that we use simple ideas as the building blocks to create complex ideas. We can do this by augmenting, diminishing, transposing or combining ~~the~~ simple ideas. ~~the~~ For example the complex idea of god comes from combining the simple ideas of goodness and wisdom. These simple ideas come from our experiences of goodness and wisdom.

2. (j) (continued)

- (ii) Why does Hume choose the idea of God to support his claim that all ideas come from experience?

2

Hume believes in empiricism and rejects innate ideas. Hume proves that God isn't an innate idea by showing that he comes from combining the ideas of goodness and wisdom. And since these ideas come from our experiences it shows that our knowledge of god comes from empiricism.

3. (a) What is the purpose of the hedonic calculus?

2

It is a quantitative tool and it is used to find out how much pleasure actions will bring in certain situations.

(b) Explain two problems with using the hedonic calculus.

4

One problem is the difficulty of predicting consequences. The hedonic calculus is based on predicting the outcomes of actions. This is a problem as it is possible that something which was believed to have good consequences could lead to negative consequences.

Another problem is the tyranny of the majority. This is because if the majority of people wanted something it could lead to the minority being taken advantage of or their rights being ignored. For example if the majority of people were racist the hedonic calculus could support racist policies being put in place.

3. (continued)

- (c) According to Mill, what is the difference between higher and lower pleasures?
You may give examples to support your answer.

4

A higher pleasure is a ~~totaling~~ intellectual pleasure which can only be experienced by humans. For example reading a book.

A lower pleasure is a bodily pleasure which is shared with humans and animals. For example having sex.

3. (continued)

- (d) Read the scenario below and answer the questions that follow.

David gets a lot of pleasure from playing games on his phone, even though he knows they are totally pointless. His parents are unhappy that he is wasting so much time and want him to focus on his other hobbies, such as running and playing the drums.

- (i) Use two factors of the hedonic calculus to show why Bentham would agree with David's parents.

4

~~Intensity~~
~~Quantity~~ This is because running and playing the drums would give more happiness than playing phone games as they are more rewarding.

Extent This is because if David starts running or playing the drums it will make him happy as well as his parents.

3. (d) (continued)

(ii) Explain why Mill would agree with David's parents.

2

Because playing phone games is a lower pleasure whereas he could instead focus on playing the drums which is a higher pleasure. Bentham believes that higher pleasure gives more happiness than lower pleasures. He also believed that anyone who had experienced higher pleasures and lower pleasures would agree that higher pleasures bring more happiness.

3. (continued)

(e) Read the scenario below and answer the question that follows.

David tells his mum he is going for a run. When he gets back, he tells his mum he ran 5 kilometres. In fact, he was sitting in the park playing games on his phone.

You have studied another moral theory. What would followers of your other moral theory think about David's actions in the above scenario? You must refer to the scenario in your answer.

In your answer you should:

- describe the key features of your other moral theory
- explain why followers of your other moral theory would not approve of David's decision to act in this way.

10

A key feature of Natural Moral Law is that it is deontological. This means that it is ~~based~~ a duty based theory and there are certain rules which should be followed. Another key feature is precepts. Primary precepts are general rules which help us to achieve our purpose. ~~And~~ Secondary precepts ~~are~~ ~~the~~ more specific rules which help us follow the primary precepts. Another key feature is the final purpose which is to become one with god in heaven. ~~By~~ By using their god-given reason a follower would decide by applying the process of casuistry that David's decision was wrong. This is because one of the primary precepts is to live in an ordered society and one way we could do this is by making sure we tell the truth. However David lied which means that he is less likely to achieve his purpose of becoming one with god in heaven as

3. (e) (continued)

he isn't following the precepts. Another primary precept is to worship god. And a secondary precept to help us follow this is to follow the bible teachings. Since the bible teaches us not to lie David hasn't followed his primary precept of worshipping god as he decided to lie to his mum.

3. (continued)

(f) Explain two criticisms of your other moral theory.

4

One criticism of NML is there are times when not all precepts can be followed. This is an issue as it will lead to confusion on which precepts to uphold.

Another criticism is NML is outdated. This is because it enforces traditional beliefs which don't align with 21st century ideas. For example the primary precept to reproduce would lead to a secondary precept not to have abortions which is an issue as nowadays abortion is widely accepted by society.