

Candidate 1 commentary

Question 1(a)

The following list contains both arguments and statements.

Tick the four arguments. (4 marks)

- He loves her and he has promised to marry her. That means he should marry her.
- I have never liked Max. He is friendly with some people I know and he used to go out with my best friend. But I don't like him.
- The cookie jar is empty because the children ate all the cookies.
- The standards for the Most Amazing Dog prize at the village fete are agility, loyalty, cuteness and wagginess of tail. The prize is a year's worth of luxury dog food, a top-of-the-range dog bed and a dog grooming voucher.
- The sewing machine needs electricity. So, because it is not plugged in, it will not work.
- Storm clouds are coming in this direction, so it is definitely going to rain today.
- I love going to the cinema with my friends. I also enjoy skate boarding and swimming but the cinema is my favourite.
- All horses have four legs. Cloppy is a horse. Therefore, Cloppy has four legs.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they correctly identified two of the arguments.

Question 1(c)

Put the following argument into standard form. (2 marks)

Eight out of ten people report having smoother and softer skin after using 'Smooth and Soft' skin cream for thirty days. Therefore, 'Smooth and Soft' skin cream actually makes skin smoother and softer. Buy it!

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** because they did not set out the argument in standard form and they included, 'Buy it!'

Question 1(d)

Explain what a fallacy is. (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** because their answer is wrong.

Question 1(e)(ii)

Either you support the bombing of Syria or you support the terrorists. So, since you don't support the bombing of Syria, you must support the terrorists.

- ◆ The candidate has correctly named the fallacy – **1 mark**
- ◆ The candidate has correctly described the fallacy: **1 mark**

- ◆ **No marks** were awarded because the candidate has not referred to the argument in his explanation.

Question 1(e)(iii)

I'm against lowering the voting age to 16. This will only lead to further demands to lower it to 14. Then it will be 12, and before we know it, 5-year-old children will be allowed to vote. That would be ridiculous! The voting age has to remain at 18.

- ◆ The candidate has correctly named the fallacy – **1 mark**
- ◆ The candidate has not given enough detail in their description of the fallacy to be awarded a mark. Candidates must show that they understand not just the claim that an event will inevitably follow from other events but that insufficient justification or evidence is provided.
- ◆ The candidate has accurately referred to the argument in his explanation so is awarded **1 mark**: 'it is a fallacy as it is an argument which is presuming bad situations could come from changing the voting age.'

Question 2(a)

Explain why sceptics think that it is impossible to know anything for certain. (4 marks)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for 'certain knowledge cannot be proven.'

Question 2(b)

What is the difference between 'knowing how' and 'knowing that'? (2 marks)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** as the answer is incorrect.

Question 2(c)(i)

Describe how Locke uses a blank sheet of paper to show how we acquire knowledge. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for explaining:

- ◆ 'Locke uses a blank sheet of paper to show that our minds are born blank without knowledge...' 1 mark
- ◆ 'knowledge is something we must acquire through experience.' 1 mark

Question 2(c)(ii)

Describe how Leibniz uses a block of veined marble to show how we acquire knowledge. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for explaining:

- ◆ Leibniz uses a block of veined marble to show that our minds are born with some knowledge.

Question 2(d)

What was Descartes aiming to achieve in his search for knowledge? (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for stating:

- ◆ Descartes was aiming to achieve certain knowledge. (The rest of the answer is about how Descartes tries to achieve his aims)

Question 2(e)

After doubting the existence of everything, Descartes asks, 'Is it then the case that I too do not exist?'

Explain how Descartes arrives at the answer, 'I am, I exist'.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for his reference to the Cogito – 'I am a thinking thing'.

Question 2(f)

Explain why Descartes thinks 'I am, I exist' is a truth he knows for certain.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** as the answer is incorrect.

Question 2(g)

Explain two weaknesses of Descartes' Cogito.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** as the answer is incorrect.

Question 2(h)

How does Hume think we acquire knowledge?

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** as the answer is incorrect.

Question 2(i)

According to Hume, what are simple ideas copies of?

- ◆ The candidate was awarded no marks as the answer is incorrect.

Question 2(j)

According to Hume, how is it possible for us to imagine things that do not exist, such as unicorns?

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for their explanation:

- ◆ We can imagine unicorns as we can imagine a horse.
- ◆ We can imagine a horn.
- ◆ We can put these two ideas together to imagine a unicorn.

Question 3(c)

Read the following statement:

'Some supermarkets throw out food which is still edible, rather than donating it to people in need.'

Explain why a Utilitarian might consider this to be morally wrong. You should support your answer by referring to the key features of Utilitarianism.

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**:

- ◆ 1 mark for: 'A Utilitarian would consider this to be morally wrong as, they would follow the Greatest Happiness Principle. This entails that they should try and guarantee the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number of people.'
- ◆ 1 mark for: They would also follow the equity principle, this is to ensure that no one counts more than anyone else in the outcome.
- ◆ 1 mark for: Utilitarians would donate food to people in need as it will give these people happiness.

Question 3(e)

You have studied another moral theory as well as Utilitarianism. Describe the key features of your other moral theory. (4 marks)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for ... 'Kantianism is a normative, duty based theory'.

Candidate 2 commentary

Question 1(a)

The following list contains both arguments and statements.

Tick the four arguments. (4 marks)

- He loves her and he has promised to marry her. That means he should marry her.
- I have never liked Max. He is friendly with some people I know and he used to go out with my best friend. But I don't like him.
- The cookie jar is empty because the children ate all the cookies.
- The standards for the Most Amazing Dog prize at the village fete are agility, loyalty, cuteness and wagginess of tail. The prize is a year's worth of luxury dog food, a top-of-the-range dog bed and a dog grooming voucher.
- The sewing machine needs electricity. So, because it is not plugged in, it will not work.
- Storm clouds are coming in this direction, so it is definitely going to rain today.
- I love going to the cinema with my friends. I also enjoy skate boarding and swimming but the cinema is my favourite
- All horses have four legs. Cloppy is a horse. Therefore, Cloppy has four legs.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they correctly identified all four arguments.

Question 1(b)

What does it mean to put an argument in standard form?

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they stated:

- ◆ The premises are numbered and premises and conclusions are labelled as such. **1 mark**
- ◆ Hidden premises are identified. **1 mark**

Question 1(c)

Put the following argument into standard form. (2)

Eight out of ten people report having smoother and softer skin after using 'Smooth and Soft' skin cream for thirty days. Therefore, 'Smooth and Soft' skin cream actually makes skin smoother and softer. Buy it!

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they correctly set out the argument in standard form and did not include 'Buy it!'

Question 1(d)

Explain what a fallacy is.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for correctly explaining what a fallacy is.

Question 1(e)(i)

He argued that all children should be given vitamin C. But I am not listening to him because he has no children of his own!

- ◆ The candidate has correctly named the fallacy – 1 mark
- ◆ The candidate has correctly described the fallacy:
- ◆ Instead of attacking their argument and what you think is wrong with it, you attack the person who made the argument. (1 mark)
- ◆ The candidate has accurately referred to the argument in his explanation:
- ◆ The fact that the man has no children of his own has no bearing on the validity of his arguments. (1 mark)

Question 1(e)(ii)

Either you support the bombing of Syria or you support the terrorists. So, since you don't support the bombing of Syria, you must support the terrorists.

- ◆ The candidate has correctly named the fallacy – 1 mark
- ◆ The candidate has correctly described the fallacy:
- ◆ When you are given only two choices and are told you can only pick one when there are other options available - 1 mark
- ◆ The candidate has accurately referred to the argument in his explanation:
- ◆ Just because someone doesn't support the bombing of Syria doesn't mean they support the terrorists, they could be anti war or something completely different. 1 mark

Question 1(f)

If I work for two hours then I will get ten pounds. I have not worked for two hours, so I will not get ten pounds.

Explain why the argument above is invalid.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** because their answer is wrong.

Question 2(a)

Explain why sceptics think that it is impossible to know anything for certain. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for explaining:

- ◆ You can't trust the senses – 1 mark
- ◆ They can be tricked by things such as optical illusions – 1 mark
- ◆ So any information or 'knowledge' that comes from the sense can't be trusted either – 1 mark
- ◆ You could be dreaming – how do you know if you're awake or not – 1 mark

- ◆ This candidate would also have been awarded marks for stating:
- ◆ You could have been tricked by an evil demon. (1 mark)
- ◆ Any information or 'knowledge' you think that you've gained could just be a fabrication from the evil demon. (1 mark)

Question 2(b)

What is the difference between 'knowing how' and 'knowing that'? (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for stating:

- ◆ Knowing how is knowing a skill or how to do something – 1 mark
- ◆ Knowing that is knowing a fact – 1 mark

Question 2(c)(i)

Describe how Locke uses a blank sheet of paper to show how we acquire knowledge. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for stating:

- ◆ Locke says that when we are born we are like a blank slate (piece of paper) or tabula rasa – 1 mark
- ◆ And that we know absolutely nothing upon our arrival into this world – 1 mark
- ◆ To learn or gain knowledge we use experience and our senses – 1 mark

Question 2(c)(ii)

Describe how Leibniz uses a block of veined marble to show how we acquire knowledge. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for stating:

- ◆ Underneath there is already a ready made statute of Hercules – 1 mark
- ◆ We just need to chip away at it – 1 mark
- ◆ This is the premise of innate ideas – that we already have some knowledge – 1 mark

Question 2(d)

What was Descartes aiming to achieve in his search for knowledge? (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for stating:

- ◆ Descartes was aiming to prove that knowledge was possible – 1 mark
- ◆ The position of supreme skeptic (someone who doubts everything) is invalid and impossible to take – 1 mark
- ◆ The rest of the answer did not get marks because it's not about Descartes' aims.

Question 2(e)

After doubting the existence of everything, Descartes asks, 'Is it then the case that I too do not exist?' (2 marks)

Explain how Descartes arrives at the answer, 'I am, I exist'.

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for their explanation:

- ◆ Descartes believes that the fact he is thinking at all to doubt his existence, proves he exists - 1 mark
- ◆ If he can think to be tricked by the demon he must exist in some form even without a body - 1 mark

Question 2(f)

Explain why Descartes thinks 'I am, I exist' is a truth he knows for certain. (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for their explanation:

- ◆ Descartes definition of knowledge is a clear and distinct idea - 1 mark
- ◆ It is clear as it doesn't use the senses to be known and it's distinct as it isn't mixed with other ideas - 1 mark

Question 2(g)

Explain two weaknesses of Descartes' Cogito. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for their explanation.

- ◆ For stating and explaining one weakness: Some people say that it is a circular argument, the use of the I at the start of 'I think, therefore I am' means that he's already assumed the conclusion is correct, to prove the conclusion - 2 marks
- ◆ For saying: Descartes thinks that his Cogito survives his evil demon argument but not everyone agrees, some believe he underestimates how inclusive it is. 1 mark (insufficient explanation for 2 marks)

Question 2(h)

How does Hume think we acquire knowledge? (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for saying: We gain knowledge from the sense and experience.

Question 2(i)

According to Hume, what are simple ideas copies of? (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for saying: Impressions

Question 2(j)

According to Hume, how is it possible for us to imagine things that do not exist, such as unicorns? (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 mark** for their explanation:

- ◆ These are complex ideas, things which we've never seen before. 1 mark

- ◆ Complex ideas are just copies of impressions, mixed with imagination. 1 mark
- ◆ So we take the impression of white horses and horns.... 1 mark
- ◆combine them together adding in goodness and purity etc to get unicorns. 1 mark

Question 3(a)

What would Bentham's hedonic calculus be used to calculate? (1 mark)

The candidate was awarded **1 marks** because they stated:

- ◆ 'Which action would cause the most happiness, last the longest etc if you took it.' 1 mark

Question 3(b)

Name any two of the components of Bentham's hedonic calculus. (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for correctly naming two components of the hedonic calculus.

- ◆ Fecundity
- ◆ Intensity

Question 3(c)

Read the following statement:

'Some supermarkets throw out food which is still edible, rather than donating it to people in need.'

Explain why a Utilitarian might consider this to be morally wrong. You should support your answer by referring to the key features of Utilitarianism. (6 marks)

The candidate was easily awarded **6 marks** for clearly referencing the key features of Utilitarianism in the context of why a utilitarian might consider this action to be morally wrong:

- ◆ This (supermarkets throwing out food which is still edible, rather than donating it to people in need) isn't following the greatest happiness principle – greatest happiness for the greatest number of people (or the other way round least pain)
- ◆ It would make lots of people in need very happy to have any of the food being thrown out. By not helping them the people at the supermarkets aren't maximising happiness or minimising suffering.
- ◆ Utilitarianism is made up of three key theories. Consequentialism – what are the consequences of their actions? By not helping – they look bad to the public, not making needless waste and not providing food that could potentially save lives.
- ◆ Equity – are all of the people being treated equally? No, by not providing food that could save someone's life, which would otherwise be going to waste – that person and their life is being treated as if it were worthless and unworthy.
- ◆ Hedonistic – is anyone really happy here? No – supermarkets aren't gaining anything from this situation, the people in need aren't being helped and everyone else can't do much to sleep.

Question 3d(i)

State a criticism of Utilitarianism. (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate has been awarded **one mark** for identifying an issue relating to the problem of predicting consequences.

Question 3d(ii)

Why is this a problem for Utilitarianism? Support your answer with an example. (2 marks)

The candidate has been awarded **two marks** for:

- ◆ 'it's hard to predict the future with any accuracy' and the example (which, although unusual, does illustrate the candidate's point).

Question 3(e)

You have studied another moral theory as well as Utilitarianism. Describe the key features of your other moral theory. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they stated:

- ◆ 'Kantianism is all about doing one's duty'. 1 mark
- ◆ 'Kant believed that for an action to be moral; it had to be done for the right reasons.' 1 mark
- ◆ 'it had to be universalisable.' 1 mark
- ◆ 'eg 'steal what you want' wouldn't be viable'. 1 mark

The candidate would also get credit for later points (for example, wanting to be in a world where's it's universalised)

Question 3(f)

Read the following scenario:

You go to a party at your best friend Katy's house. You damage an expensive laptop belonging to Katy's parents, and you cannot afford to replace it. Katy offers to take the blame for you.

What would followers of your other moral theory think is the right thing to do in this situation?

Give reasons for your answer. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they stated:

- ◆ 'he says that you shouldn't lie no matter what even if it's to save a life. Lying is one of the examples he gave of things you shouldn't do, ever.'
- ◆ 'Kant would also disagree because it's not the right motivation – you're doing it out of fear and wanting to escape punishment.'
- ◆ 'Kant says that emotions aren't moral motivations.'

This was a full answer, going beyond 4 marks.

Question 3(g)

Describe two criticisms of your other moral theory, with reference to the above scenario.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they described two criticisms, with reference to the scenario. This candidate went beyond description and discussed criticisms.

Candidate 3 commentary

Question 1(a)

The following list contains both arguments and statements.

Tick the four arguments. (4 marks)

- He loves her and he has promised to marry her. That means he should marry her.
- I have never liked Max. He is friendly with some people I know and he used to go out with my best friend. But I don't like him.
- The cookie jar is empty because the children ate all the cookies.
- The standards for the Most Amazing Dog prize at the village fete are agility, loyalty, cuteness and wagginess of tail. The prize is a year's worth of luxury dog food, a top-of-the-range dog bed and a dog grooming voucher.
- The sewing machine needs electricity. So, because it is not plugged in, it will not work.
- Storm clouds are coming in this direction, so it is definitely going to rain today.
- I love going to the cinema with my friends. I also enjoy skate boarding and swimming but the cinema is my favourite.
- All horses have four legs. Cloppy is a horse. Therefore, Cloppy has four legs.

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they correctly identified three of the arguments.

Question 1(b)

What does it mean to put an argument in standard form? (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they stated:

- ◆ 'standard form is when you take out all the unnecessary language'.

Question 1(c)

Put the following argument into standard form. (2 marks)

Eight out of ten people report having smoother and softer skin after using 'Smooth and Soft' skin cream for thirty days. Therefore, 'Smooth and Soft' skin cream actually makes skin smoother and softer. Buy it!

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for setting out and labelling a premise.

Question 1(d)

Explain what a fallacy is. (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **zero marks**.

Question 1e(ii)

Either you support the bombing of Syria or you support the terrorists. So, since you don't support the bombing of Syria, you must support the terrorists.

- ◆ The candidate has correctly named the fallacy – **1 mark**
- ◆ The candidate has correctly described the fallacy: **1 mark**. They stated 'This is when you are only given 2 options even though there are clearly more'.
- ◆ The candidate correctly explains why this is a fallacy by referring to the argument: **1 mark**

It is a fallacy because the argument is that you support the bombing of Syria or you support the terrorists but you do not actually have to support either.

Question e(iii)

I'm against lowering the voting age to 16. This will only lead to further demands to lower it to 14. Then it will be 12, and before we know it, 5-year-old children will be allowed to vote. That would be ridiculous! The voting age has to remain at 18.

- ◆ The candidate has correctly named the fallacy – **1 mark**
- ◆ The candidate has inadequately described the fallacy – **no marks**
- ◆ The candidate has inaccurately referred to the argument in his explanation so is awarded **no marks**.

Question 1(f)

If I work for two hours then I will get ten pounds. I have not worked for two hours, so I will not get ten pounds. (2 marks)

Explain why the argument above is invalid.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no mark** for their answer: they clearly do not understand what invalid means.

Section 2 – Knowledge and Doubt**Question 2(a)**

Explain why sceptics think that it is impossible to know anything for certain. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded 1 marks because they stated:

- ◆ 'everything comes with doubt.' 1 mark

Question 2(b)

What is the difference between 'knowing how' and 'knowing that'? (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they stated:

- ◆ 'we know how to ride a bike or drive a car'. 1 mark
- ◆ 'we know that Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland'. 1 mark

Question 2(c)(i)

Describe how Locke uses a blank sheet of paper to show how we acquire knowledge. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because of their descriptions:

- ◆ 'Locke believed that we are born with no knowledge'. 1 mark
- ◆ 'that we are born like a blank sheet of paper'. 1 mark
- ◆ 'we gain knowledge from experiences'. 1 mark

Question 2(c)(ii)

Describe how Leibniz uses a block of veined marble to show how we acquire knowledge. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because of their description:

- ◆ 'Leibniz believed that we are born with innate knowledge'. 1 mark

Question 2(d)

What was Descartes aiming to achieve in his search for knowledge? (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they stated:

- ◆ 'Descartes was aiming to get rid of all doubt'. 1 mark

Question 2(e)

After doubting the existence of everything, Descartes asks, 'Is it then the case that I too do not exist?' (2 marks)

Explain how Descartes arrives at the answer, 'I am, I exist'.

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** because their answer was unclear and confused.

Question 2(f)

Explain why Descartes thinks 'I am, I exist' is a truth he knows for certain. (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they stated:

- ◆ 'He knows that he actually exists because something that does not exist cannot doubt.' 1 mark
- ◆ 'He tries putting it through the malicious demon thought experiment but feels that the malicious demon cannot deceive something that does not exist.' 1 mark

Question 2(g)

Explain two weaknesses of Descartes' Cogito. (4 marks)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** because their answer was incorrect.

Question 2(h)

How does Hume think we acquire knowledge? (1 mark)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for stating:

- ◆ 'Hume believes that we gain knowledge through impressions eg. seeing something or feeling an emotion.'

Question 2(i)

According to Hume, what are simple ideas copies of? (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **no marks** because their answer was incorrect.

Question 2(j)

According to Hume, how is it possible for us to imagine things that do not exist, such as unicorns? (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for stating:

- ◆ 'Complex ideas are when we even if we have not seen something can imagine it.' 1 mark
- ◆ 'We do this by compounding'. 1 mark
- ◆ 'this is when we take 2 things and put them together.' 1 mark
- ◆ 'for example, a horse and a horn.' 1 mark

Candidate 4 commentary

Question 3(a)

What would Bentham's hedonic calculus be used to calculate? (1 mark)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for stating that the 'hedonic calculate used to calculate the overall happiness outcome of something.'

Question 3(b)

Name any two of the components of Bentham's hedonic calculus. (2 marks)

- ◆ The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for duration.

Question 3(c)

Read the following statement:

'Some supermarkets throw out food which is still edible, rather than donating it to people in need.'

Explain why a Utilitarian might consider this to be morally wrong. You should support your answer by referring to the key features of Utilitarianism. (6 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for explaining that:

- ◆ 'A utilitarian intends to bring the most happiness to the most people.' – 1 mark
- ◆ 'Therefore, they would take issue with this as feeding the needy would bring happiness to a large group of poor in our society.' – 1 mark
- ◆ 'Furthermore, utilitarians perceive all as equal in that we all deserve happiness and the basic standards of living.' – 1 mark

Question 3(d)(ii)

State a second criticism of Utilitarianism. (1 mark)

- ◆ **1 mark** for stating that 'Hedonism does not account for problematic ways of pursuing happiness.'

Question 3(d)(iv)

Why is this a problem for Utilitarianism? Support your answer with an example. (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**:

- ◆ 1 mark for the explanation and 1 mark for the example

Question 3(e)

You have studied another moral theory as well as Utilitarianism. Describe the key features of your other moral theory. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for explaining that:

- ◆ Duty ethics is the theory that one should behave morally based on duty – 1 mark
- ◆ Not instinct or a good kind nature – 1 mark
- ◆ Universal law theory – 1 mark

Question 3(f)

Read the following scenario:

You go to a party at your best friend Katy's house. You damage an expensive laptop belonging to Katy's parents, and you cannot afford to replace it. Katy offers to take the blame for you.

What would followers of your other moral theory think is the right thing to do in this situation?

Give reasons for your answer. (4marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for explaining that:

- ◆ As a friend to Katy they could not morally allow her to be blamed for their mistake – 1 mark
- ◆ Universal law therefore would push the Kantian to instead own up to damaging the laptop – 1 mark

Question 3(g)

Describe two criticisms of your other moral theory, with reference to the above scenario. (4 marks)

- ◆ The candidate did not refer to the scenario and was therefore awarded **zero marks**.