N5

National Qualifications 2025

X854/75/01

Mark ☐

Philosophy

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY
9:00 AM – 11:20 AM

Fill in these boxes and read what is printed below.

Full name of centre		Town	

Forename(s)	Surname	Number of seat

Date of birth

Day	Month	Year	Scottish candidate number

Total marks — 80

SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided in this booklet. Additional space for answers is provided at the end of this booklet. If you use this space you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

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

Before leaving the examination room you must give this booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.

◇◇ SQA ©

SECTION 1 — ARGUMENTS IN ACTION — 20 marks
Attempt ALL questions

1. (a) The table below gives definitions of key terms in philosophy. Complete the table by writing the term that each definition refers to.

	Definition	Key term	
(i)	A sentence that is either true or false.		1
(ii)	A common error in reasoning.		1
(iii)	A type of argument in which the truth of the premises guarantees the truth of the conclusion.		1
(iv)	A set of statements that can be used to persuade.		1
(v)	A reason given to support the central claim of an argument.		1

(b) Identify the **two** valid arguments in the following list by ticking (✓) the appropriate boxes.

2

☐ If you look at a screen for too long your eyes will go square.
Your eyes have gone square.
So you have looked at a screen for too long.

☐ If you look at a screen for too long your eyes will go square.
You have looked at a screen for too long.
So you have got square eyes.

☐ If you look at a screen for too long your eyes will go square.
You don't have square eyes.
So you have not looked at a screen for too long.

☐ If you look at a screen for too long your eyes will go square.
You haven't looked at a screen for too long.
So you don't have square eyes.

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1. **(continued)**

(c)   (i)

Explain why this is not an argument in the philosophical sense.   **3**

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1. (c) (continued)

Zara

Nel

Zara:

  (ii) Explain the false dilemma fallacy in Zara's argument. **3**

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1. (c) (continued)

Nel:

(iii) Explain the slippery slope fallacy in Nel's argument.　　4

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1. (c) (continued)

(iv) Put the argument below into standard form: **3**

> If you want a new hobby then you should try metal detecting. It gives you the chance to learn about the history of the area, to get outside in all kinds of weather, and to meet loads of new people. Give it a go!

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SECTION 2 — KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

2. (a) Describe the metaphor Locke uses to explain his view on innate ideas.　　　**3**

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(b) Describe the metaphor Leibniz uses to explain his view on innate ideas.　　　**3**

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2. (continued)

(c) Descartes' first two arguments in the Method of Doubt are the senses argument and the dreaming argument. In the senses argument he starts to doubt the reliability of his senses.

(i) Describe Descartes' senses argument.   **2**

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(ii) The senses argument **does not** fully undermine Descartes' confidence in knowledge gained through experience. Explain why.   **2**

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2. (c) (continued)

(iii) Explain how Descartes uses the dreaming argument to further undermine our confidence in knowledge gained through experience.

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2. (c) (continued)

(iv) Explain **at least one** criticism of Descartes' approach in the Method of Doubt. Criticisms may be strengths and/or weaknesses.

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You must refer to the approach Descartes takes in the Method of Doubt, and not to specific arguments.

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(d) According to Hume, what is an impression?

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(e) According to Hume, what is an idea?

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2. (continued)

(f) Explain how Hume uses the idea of God to support his claim that **all** ideas can be traced back to earlier impressions.

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(g) State **two** of the examples Hume uses to support his claim that if someone doesn't have the impression then they can't have the corresponding idea.

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[Turn over

2. **(continued)**

(h) Describe **at least two** criticisms of Hume's distinction between impressions and ideas. Criticisms may be strengths and/or weaknesses. **6**

SECTION 3 — MORAL PHILOSOPHY — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

3. (a) Which of the following is the best description of the Greatest Happiness Principle? **1**

The right action is the one that:

☐ maximises your happiness.

☐ brings about the greatest good for the greatest number.

☐ makes as many people happy as possible.

(b) Which of the following is the best description of the Hedonic Calculus? **1**

☐ it is a way of measuring the quality of happiness an action produces.

☐ it is a way of working out how much happiness an action produces.

☐ it is a way of determining your duty.

(c) Which of the following would Mill say is the best description of a competent judge? **1**

☐ someone who only enjoys higher pleasures.

☐ someone who has a lot of experience of moral dilemmas.

☐ someone who has experienced both higher and lower pleasures.

(d) Which of the following is the best description of the equity principle? **1**

☐ everyone should be treated the same.

☐ everyone is of equal value.

☐ everyone's happiness is of equal importance.

[Turn over

3. (continued)

(e) How effective is Utilitarianism as a moral theory? **10**

In your answer you must include:

- key features of utilitarianism
- strengths and weaknesses of utilitarianism.

Marks will not be awarded for repeating definitions from questions a–d, but can be awarded if you develop or expand on the definition.

3. (e) (continued)

3. (continued)

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

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3. (continued)

(g) Read the scenario below.

> You promise your friend that you will go to their party. Later, you are offered tickets to a concert on the same night as the party. It is a band that you love but your friend doesn't enjoy their music.

What advice would a follower of your other moral theory give you in this situation? Explain your answer.

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3. (continued)

(h) Explain **two** criticisms of your other moral theory. You may use examples to support your answer, and/or consider responses to these criticisms.

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First criticism: _____

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Second criticism: _____

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[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ANSWERS

ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ANSWERS