



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2011

# Philosophy

# PHIL1

## Unit 1 An Introduction to Philosophy 1

Tuesday 11 January 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is PHIL1.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Answer **both** questions on **Theme 1** and both questions on **one** other theme.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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Answer **four** questions.

Answer **both** questions on Theme 1 and **both** questions on **one** other theme.

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**Theme 1: Reason and Experience**

**0 1** Explain and illustrate why there is a problem concerning the conclusions reached through inductive arguments. (15 marks)

**0 2** 'At birth the mind is a *tabula rasa*.' Discuss. (30 marks)

**Theme 2: Why should I be governed?**

**0 3** Explain and illustrate **two** reasons that might justify dissent against the rule of law. (15 marks)

**0 4** 'In the absence of an explicit act of consent the idea of a social contract is a fiction.' Assess whether it is a useful fiction. (30 marks)

**Theme 3: Why should I be moral?**

**0 5** Explain and illustrate **two** objections to the view that if we understand what is good and acquire the virtues, we will flourish and be happy. (15 marks)

**0 6** 'The only genuinely moral motivation for performing an action is that it is the right action.' Discuss. (30 marks)

**Theme 4: The idea of God**

**0 7** Explain **two** criticisms of the view that God is supremely good, the source of moral laws and moral goodness. (15 marks)

**0 8** 'A consideration of the idea of God should lead us to conclude that He exists.' Discuss. (30 marks)

**Theme 5: Persons**

**0 9** Explain and illustrate the view that being a person is a matter of degree. (15 marks)

**1 0** Assess whether some machines could be persons. (30 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**