



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2012

# Philosophy

# PHIL4

## Unit 4 Philosophical Problems

Thursday 21 June 2012 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 PHIL4.
- Answer questions from **one** section. In that section, answer the first question **and** one other question.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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**Section A: Hume**

If you choose this section, answer Question 01 and **one** other question.

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|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
|---|---|

 Outline and illustrate any three of Hume's reasons for rejecting accounts of miraculous events. *(15 marks)*

**AND EITHER**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Assess the adequacy of Hume's account of cause and effect. *(45 marks)*

**OR**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

 'Hume's empiricist account of knowledge and our acquisition of ideas fails to explain our knowledge of the world.'
- Assess whether this claim is justified. *(45 marks)*
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**Section B: Plato**

If you choose this section, answer Question 04 and **one** other question.

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|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
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 Outline Plato's simile of the ship and explain **one** of its purposes. *(15 marks)*

**AND EITHER**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|

 Assess whether Plato can provide objectively correct solutions to moral issues. *(45 marks)*

**OR**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 6 |
|---|---|

 'The Theory of Forms cannot be established by reason or experience and must therefore be rejected.'
- Assess whether Plato's theory can withstand this criticism. *(45 marks)*

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**Section C: Mill**

If you choose this section, answer Question 07 and **one** other question.

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**0 7**

Explain and illustrate Mill's reasons for suggesting there are dangers inherent in democratic government. *(15 marks)*

**AND EITHER****0 8**

Assess whether Mill succeeds in establishing the limit of state interference in the actions of the individual. *(45 marks)*

**OR****0 9**

'Mill overestimated the importance of freedom of thought and discussion to a free society.'

Assess the validity of this claim. *(45 marks)*

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**Section D: Descartes**

If you choose this section, answer Question 10 and **one** other question.

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**1 0**

Outline Descartes' wax example and explain **two** of its purposes. *(15 marks)*

**AND EITHER****1 1**

Assess Descartes' reasons for supposing that mind and body are separate and distinct substances. *(45 marks)*

**OR****1 2**

'The mere possession of an idea of a perfect being does not guarantee the existence of such a being.'

Assess whether this is a valid criticism of Descartes' case for the existence of God. *(45 marks)*

**Turn over ▶**

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**Section E: Nietzsche**

If you choose this section, answer Question 13 and **one** other question.

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Outline and illustrate Nietzsche's stages of morality.

*(15 marks)*

**AND EITHER**

1	4
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Assess Nietzsche's claim that past philosophy is an expression of prejudice. *(45 marks)*

**OR**

1	5
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'Nietzsche has shown that religious belief can no longer be taken seriously.'

Assess the validity of this claim.

*(45 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**