

GCE
AS and A Level

Philosophy

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 1: **Specimen question paper**

Version 1.1



General Certificate of Education
Specimen Paper
Advanced Subsidiary Examination

PHILOSOPHY
Unit 1 An Introduction to Philosophy 1

PHIL1



Specimen Paper

For this paper you must have:

- an 8–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 **Question 1** and **one** other question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

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

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Theme: Reason and experience

- 1 (a) Explain what is meant by *a priori* and explain **one** reason why the *a priori* is philosophically significant. (15 marks)
- (b) ‘All ideas derive from the sense experiences which they copy.’ Discuss. (30 marks)

Theme: Why should I be governed?

- 2 (a) Explain and illustrate what is meant by ‘power’ in political contexts. (15 marks)
- (b) Consider the claim that political obligations are founded upon consent. (30 marks)

Theme: Why should I be moral?

- 3 (a) Explain and illustrate **two** criticisms of the claim that morality is a conventional agreement for our mutual advantage. (15 marks)
- (b) ‘Self interest plays no part in genuine morality’. Discuss. (30 marks)

Theme: The idea of God

- 4 (a) Explain and illustrate the claim that if God is *eternal* then He cannot be *omniscient*. (15 marks)
- (b) Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the ontological argument. (30 marks)

Theme: Persons

- 5 (a) Identify and briefly explain **two** characteristics that distinguish persons from non-persons. (15 marks)
- (b) How convincing is the claim that bodily continuity is a necessary and sufficient condition for personal identity over time? (30 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS