Being human

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Philosophy · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
core theme	Being human is the **core theme**.
stimulus /ˈstɪmjʊləs/	The paper begins with a **stimulus**, such as a photo or text.
philosophy /fɪˈlɒsəfi/	**Philosophy** asks big questions about life and knowledge.
argument /ˈɑːgjuːmənt/	The last paragraph shows a weakness in the **argument**.
premise /ˈpremɪs/	A **premise** is a statement that supports a conclusion.
conclusion /kənˈkluːʒn/	In your **conclusion**, sum up your main points.
valid	A **valid** argument's conclusion follows from its premises.
sound /saʊnd/	A **sound** argument is valid and has true premises.
deductive /dɪˈdʌktɪv/	**Deductive** reasoning goes from general rules to a certain conclusion.
inductive /ɪnˈdʌktɪv/	**Inductive** reasoning moves from examples to a general rule.
fallacy	A **fallacy** is a mistake in reasoning.
thought experiment /θɔːt ekˈsperɪmənt/	A **thought experiment** imagines a situation to test an idea.

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personal identity /ˈpɜːsənl aɪˈdentɪti/	**Personal identity** asks what makes you the same person over time.
body theory /ˈbɒdi ˈθɪəri/	The **body theory** says you are your body.
memory theory /ˈmeməri ˈθɪəri/	The **memory theory** says you are linked by your memories.
psychological continuity	**Psychological continuity** links your mind from day to day.
personhood /ˈpɜːsənhʊd/	**Personhood** asks what makes something a person.
human	What does it mean to be **human**?
person /ˈpɜːsn/	A **person** can think, feel and choose.
free will /friː wɪl/	**Free will** is the power to choose for yourself.
hard determinism	**Hard determinism** says every choice is caused, so free will is false.
libertarianism	**Libertarianism** says we have free will and are not fully caused.
compatibilism	**Compatibilism** says free will and determinism can both be true.
dualism /ˈdjuːəlɪzəm/	**Dualism** says the mind and body are separate.
physicalism /ˈfɪzɪkəlɪzəm/	**Physicalism** says everything is physical, including the mind.

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knowledge argument	The **knowledge argument** asks whether science can explain experience.
philosophical issue	A **philosophical issue** is a question with no easy answer.

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