

Supported preparation: HL unseen text and normative bridges

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Philosophy · HL

Scope and prerequisites

IB philosophy first assessment 2025. Core Being human; one optional theme at SL, two at HL; one school-selected prescribed text. HL extension is Philosophy and contemporary issues. No unverified prescribed text is chosen by default.

Mapped preparation outcomes: `ib_philosophy_hl.4.1`, `ib_philosophy_hl.4.2`. Read the matching native lesson first. Actual approved choices, evidence and final learner work remain separate.

Source vocabulary

accountability ; **normative claim** .

Explanation and worked method

For an unseen text, identify its question, premises, conclusion and method, then evaluate what it is doing philosophically. Descriptive accuracy does not automatically establish a normative decision rule.

Original source / task evidence

Task: “The new algorithm is more accurate, so it should make every decision.” Supply the missing assumption and evaluate it.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
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Task: “The new algorithm is more accurate, so it should make every decision.” Supply the missing assumption and evaluate it.

The argument assumes accuracy always outweighs accountability, rights and other values. Challenge that priority with a case where explanation or appeal matters; acknowledge that accuracy can still have substantial value.

Independent transfer

Rewrite the algorithm conclusion to incorporate accountability without ignoring accuracy.

Attempt independently before reading the model.

Checked original model

Use the system for a specified decision class only where relevant validation, explanation, appeal and human accountability meet justified standards. Accuracy can support this conditional recommendation but cannot by itself override every right or value. Test the revised premises and exceptions.

These are authored formative expectations, not official IB descriptors. Accept other justified arguments with evidence and material limits.

Source and task holds

This supplement teaches the method for this part of the course. The full assessment criteria and any texts your school chooses come from your teacher.