

The philosophical analysis

IB DP Philosophy internal assessment full package

1. The analysis at a glance

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IB Philosophy internal assessment: the philosophical analysis - a 2000-word analysis of a non-philosophical stimulus (a photo, an advert, a cartoon, a lyric), worth 25 percent at SL and 20 percent at HL. The craft of finding the philosophical issue IN the world.

Must-know: the stimulus non-philosophical, specific, the student's own; the issue philosophical and genuinely drawn; the framing sentence (stimulus, concept, question, one line); the treatment's five moves; the personal-voice criterion; the gallery and report failures.

2. Stimulus and issue

Stimulus and issue

The stimulus must be non-philosophical - no textbook extracts, no lifted thought experiments. Rich stimuli: a rescue-triage photo, an advert, a cartoon on surveillance, a game's rules, a lyric on change.

The issue is found by asking the core theme's questions OF the stimulus: what does this assume about persons, freedom, knowledge, what matters? The framing sentence is the spine: this advertisement raises the question of whether treating someone as a means requires intending to use them.

3. The treatment

The treatment

The analysis explains the concept (attributed), applies it to the stimulus's specific features, develops the student's own argument, answers the strongest objection, and concludes owning its limits. The criteria reward treatment, personal engagement and clarity.

The failures: the gallery (five names, no argument), the essay-report (all exposition, no position), the drift into sociology. Worked: the commuter-and-sleeper photograph - the supererogation question, the window's structure as the demandingness problem, the pond objection answered, the institutional conclusion owned.

Check yourself

Check yourself

The stimulus's two tests; the issue's two tests; the framing sentence.

The treatment's five moves; the three criteria.

The gallery, report and drift failures.

The worked photograph's framing, development, objection and owned conclusion.