

Philosophy and contemporary issues

IB DP Philosophy HL extension full package

1. The extension at a glance

The extension at a glance

IB Philosophy compulsory HL extension: philosophy and contemporary issues - two contemporary issues studied philosophically, examining the nature, function, meaning and methodology of philosophical activity itself.

Must-know: philosophy as conceptual analysis, argument and the a priori; the autonomy debate with science; thought experiments and the intuition challenge; the AI kit (Turing, Chinese room, personhood, machine agency, algorithmic choice); the environment kit (non-identity, future generations, sentience, value); identity, the feed and the public role.

2. The meta-questions

The meta-questions

What philosophy IS: conceptual analysis (unpacking the concepts an issue runs on), argument (the core craft), the a priori study of the possible - what could be, must be, is consistent, against science's what IS.

The method questions: does ethics need neuroscience, does mind need AI (the autonomy debate); what thought experiments are for; what weight intuitions carry when they vary (the experimental-philosophy challenge). The meta-skill: naming the method while using it - the worked AI framing keeps the conceptual/empirical split visible.

3. The issue kits

The issue kits

AI and technology: the Turing test's behaviourism and the Chinese room's reply; personhood criteria on systems; machine moral agency (agent or tool?); algorithmic choice against compatibilism's right-way test.

Environment: the non-identity problem (policies determine who exists - whom do we harm?); future generations' rights (whoever lives has a right to a liveable world); sentience as the non-human criterion; intrinsic versus instrumental value. Identity and public: algorithmic othering; the epistemology of the feed; the philosopher's advisory role.

Check yourself

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The three conceptions of philosophy; the a priori against science; the autonomy debate.

Thought experiments and intuitions; the meta-skill.

AI: Turing, the Chinese room, personhood, agency, the nudged choice.

Environment: non-identity with the rights objection; sentience; value; the feed and the advisory role.