Revision practice

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Philosophy · SL

1 Arguments, identity and personhood

- premise
- validity

■ Question 1

What is wrong with the classroom argument?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

It treats a stated sufficient condition as if it were necessary.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: If someone's memories change, are they still the same person? The answer depends on what criterion of identity the argument uses.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

All people with unchanged memories are the same person; this person has changed memories; therefore this is a different person does not follow. The premises do not say unchanged memory is necessary; losing a sufficient condition does not prove loss of identity.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not substitute personal opinion for an argument. / A counterexample should challenge a premise or inference precisely, not merely express disagreement.

2 Ethical reasoning and textual interpretation

- consequentialism
- obligation

■ Question 1

What should come before evaluating a prescribed argument?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

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An accurate reconstruction of its premises, conclusion and relevant distinctions.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A promise conflicts with preventing harm. An ethical judgement needs reasons about duties, consequences or character.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

In an original dilemma, a harmless promise of secrecy conceals a serious safety risk. Compare reasons to keep the promise with reasons to protect a person. Explain how the facts alter the strength of each reason; do not assume a theory has one automatic answer.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Ethics is one possible option, not a universal school selection. Other options and the approved prescribed text need dedicated teaching. / Paper 2 assesses the chosen prescribed text, so a general ethics worksheet cannot replace textual study.

3 From stimulus to philosophical inquiry

- personhood
- counterargument

■ Question 1

Which question is most philosophical?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Is consciousness necessary for personhood, and how could that condition be justified?

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A photograph of a humanoid robot may prompt a question about personhood. Describing the robot's design is not yet philosophical analysis.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Ask whether consciousness is necessary for personhood. Compare one argument for this condition with an objection concerning how consciousness can be known. Return to the stimulus only when it helps clarify the issue or argument.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)

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- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

The IA is supervised coursework, not a written mock replacing it. / Reference arguments and stimulus sources; teacher checks eligibility, authenticity and assessment requirements.