

Exercise walk-through

2.1

Options and prescribed text preparation: supported rehearsal

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Philosophy · SL

1

The method

Method — Worked example

Reconstruct an argument in its strongest defensible form before objecting. Separate a textual claim from your inference, cite a precise passage in the actual selected work and examine a relevant objection. The school's option and prescribed text cannot be chosen by a generic worksheet.

Original argument: "A promise gives others reason to rely on us; avoidable breach defeats that reliance; therefore we normally ought to keep promises." Find a qualification and an objection.

Normally allows exceptions. A harmful promise or conflicting obligation challenges an unconditional duty, but not necessarily the qualified claim. Explain whether the justification is reliance, consequences or another principle.

Method — Worked example

Original argument: “A promise gives others reason to rely on us; avoidable breach defeats that reliance;...

Original source / task evidence

Original argument: “A promise gives others reason to rely on us; avoidable breach defeats that reliance; therefore we normally ought to keep promises.” Find a qualification and an objection.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Options and prescribed text preparation

Original classroom evidence panel for Options and prescribed text preparation

Exercises 2.1·3.1

2.1 For the worked case, identify the evidence and a conclusion it can support. Explain one material limit. [3]

3.1 A promise conflicts with preventing serious harm. Revise the original argument without abandoning reasons. Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

Exercises 2.1-3.1

2.1 For the worked case, identify the evidence and a conclusion it can support. Explain one material limit. [3]

2.1 Normally allows exceptions. A harmful promise or conflicting obligation challenges an unconditional duty, but not necessarily the qualified claim. Explain whether the justification is reliance, consequences or another principle. Authored points for identifying relevant evidence, explaining a supported inference and a material limit.

3.1 A promise conflicts with preventing serious harm. Revise the original argument without abandoning reasons. Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

3.1 A qualified duty can hold when keeping the promise does not conflict with a weightier justified obligation. Explain why reliance still matters and how harm is assessed, then address whether the exception is too broad. A qualification needs a principle, not permission to break any inconvenient promise. Authored points for a relevant judgement, reason tied to the case and justified qualification or method. Accept a supported alternative.