

Supported preparation: Premises and personhood

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Philosophy · SL

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_sl.1.1`, `ib_philosophy_sl.1.2`. Read the matching native lesson first. Actual approved choices, evidence and final learner work remain separate.

Source vocabulary

premise ; **validity** .

Explanation and worked method

A premise gives a reason; a conclusion is the claim those reasons aim to support. Validity concerns whether true premises would guarantee the conclusion. Soundness also requires true premises. A definition of personhood must be argued for and tested, not assumed from everyday wording.

Original source / task evidence

Task: “All persons can communicate verbally; this individual cannot communicate verbally; therefore this individual is not a person.” Evaluate without applying a harmful label to a real person.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Premises and personhood

Task: “All persons can communicate verbally; this individual cannot communicate verbally; therefore this individual is not a person.” Evaluate without applying a harmful label to a real person.

The argument has the valid denying-the-consequent form if the first premise is accepted. The premise is highly contestable: temporary inability to speak is a counterexample to using verbal performance as a necessary condition. A valid form does not establish soundness.

Independent transfer

Propose consciousness as a personhood criterion and identify a difficulty in applying it.

Attempt independently before reading the model.

Checked original model

A consciousness criterion can link personhood to experience, but its necessity, sufficiency and meaning need argument. Temporary unconsciousness challenges a momentary test, and other minds raise evidential problems. Distinguish the concept from a performance proxy and consider a defensible revision.

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

Source and task holds

Scope authority: coverage.yaml and its hashed source files. Detailed full-guide criteria and school selections remain held exactly as recorded; this supplement teaches the supported method. No practice-bank item, reserved diagnostic or student evidence has been republished.