

Name:
(First name *and* surname - CAPITAL LETTERS please)

Current school:



St Paul's School
FOUNDED 1509

16+ Examination

SAMPLE PAPER

Philosophy

45 MINUTES

Instructions:

- Answer all questions.
- Please answer on lined paper and ensure you write your full name at the top of each sheet.

Section 1

In what follows, P and Q stand for English declarative sentences, sentences which are either true or false. For example: "Today is Friday." An argument is a collection of declarative sentences, one of which – the conclusion – is claimed to follow from the others, and is often marked out by the word "therefore".

A valid form of argument is one where the conclusion necessarily follows whatever declarative sentences we choose for P and Q.

The following is an example of a valid form of argument:

P is true; if P then Q; therefore, Q is true.

1. Comment on whether the following arguments are valid or not. Where appropriate, give examples to support your reasoning. **Three marks** are available for each.
 - a) Q is true; if P then Q; therefore, P is true.
 - b) Maya believes P; if P then Q; therefore, Maya believes Q.
 - c) Tess does not believe P; if P then Q; therefore, Tess does not believe Q.
 - d) Sarah believes P. Therefore, if Sarah believes 'if P then Q', Sarah believes Q.
 - e) Lara does not believe Q; if P then Q; Therefore, Lara ought not believe P.

Section 2

Read the following passage carefully, and then answer the questions below:

The utilitarian doctrine is, that happiness is desirable, and the only thing desirable, as an end; all other things being only desirable as means to that end. What ought to be required of this doctrine—what conditions is it requisite that the doctrine should fulfil—to make good its claim to be believed?

The only proof capable of being given that an object is visible, is that people actually see it. The only proof that a sound is audible, is that people hear it: and so of the other sources of our experience. In like manner, I apprehend, the sole evidence it is possible to produce that anything is desirable, is that people do actually desire it. If the end which the utilitarian doctrine proposes to itself were not, in theory and in practice, acknowledged to be an end, nothing could ever convince any person that it was so. No reason can be given why the general happiness is desirable, except that each person, so far as he believes it to be attainable, desires his own happiness. This, however, being a fact, we have not only all the proof which the case admits of, but all which it is possible to require, that happiness is a good: that each person's happiness is a good to that person, and the general happiness, therefore, a good to the aggregate of all persons. Happiness has made out its title as one of the ends of conduct, and consequently one of the criteria of morality.

J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapter 4.

2. Explain in your own words the argument of this passage. [5 marks]

3. Should we be persuaded to accept the “utilitarian doctrine” by the argument in this passage? [10 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS