

# IB Philosophy Exam

## Structure

## External assessment

**70%**

**Two** written papers are externally set and externally assessed.

### Paper 1

**1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours**

**40%**

This paper consists of **two** compulsory sections: section A and section B.

**Section A** contains **two** questions based on the core theme. Students are required to answer **one** question.

**Section B** contains **two** essay questions for each of the optional themes. Students are required to answer **one** question.

### Paper 2

**1 hour**

**30%**

This paper consists of **two** essay questions for each of the prescribed philosophical texts. Students are required to answer **one** question.

## Internal assessment

**30%**

Students are required to write a philosophical analysis of non-philosophical material. The philosophical analysis should contain 1,600–2,000 words. This will be internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IBO.

## **Paper 1**

**1¾ hours, 40%**

This paper consists of two sections: section A (based on the core theme) and section B (based on the optional themes).

### **Section A**

The purpose of this section is to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the core theme. Students are required to answer **one** from a choice of two questions based on the core theme.

Each question will be based on stimulus material, which could take the form of a short extract from a text, or a visual piece such as a picture, a cartoon or an advertisement.

The questions will ask for the identification, analysis, critical discussion, exploration and evaluation of a philosophical concept or issue arising from the core theme.

In developing their answers students should:

- identify a philosophical concept or issue arising from the core theme they will explore
- show an awareness of two philosophical perspectives regarding this concept or issue
- engage in critical discussion of the concept or issue identified
- develop a personal and relevant evaluation of the concept or issue identified.

Students should write approximately 750–1,000 words in response to the question chosen.

## Section B

The purpose of this section is to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the optional themes. The questions will also assess students' ability to identify and analyse material relevant to the specific question posed, and their ability to use language appropriate to philosophy as they develop arguments and counter-arguments.

Two essay questions will be set for each optional theme. Students are required to answer **one** question. Students should write approximately 750–1,000 words in response to the question chosen.

Questions may take the form of a direct question, a quotation or a statement.

## **Paper 2**

**1 hour, 30%**

This paper consists of essay questions based on the prescribed philosophical texts. Two questions will be set for each prescribed text. Students are required to answer **one** question.

The purpose of this paper is to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the prescribed text they have studied. The questions will also assess students' ability to identify and analyse material relevant to the specific question posed on the text, and their ability to use language appropriate to philosophy and the prescribed text as they develop arguments and counter-arguments.

Students should write approximately 750–1,000 words in response to the question chosen.

Questions may take the form of a direct question, a quotation or a statement.