

External assessment 2022

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Stimulus book

# Philosophy & Reason

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.



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## Stimulus 1

# Perspectives on human nature

Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains.

— *Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1762*

Man is by nature a social animal.

— *Aristotle, 4th century BCE*

[Humans] may be selfish at heart, but it is that same selfishness that provides us with the best reason for helping others.

— *Dave Robertson & Judy Groves, 2011*

Like it or not, we must face the fact that humans come in different shapes and sizes; they come with differing moral capacities, differing intellectual abilities, differing amounts of benevolent feeling and sensitivity to the needs of others ... The principle of the equality of human beings is not a description of an alleged actual equality among humans: it is a prescription of how we should treat humans.

— *Peter Singer, 1989*

One of the important findings of the emerging ... science of human nature is that humans ... have an innate sense of fairness.

— *Peter Corning, 2015*

As society itself produces man as man, so is society produced by him.

— *Karl Marx, 1844*

The natural effort of every individual to better his own condition ... is so powerful ... that it is alone, and without any assistance ... capable of carrying on the society to wealth and prosperity.

— *Adam Smith, 1759*

[As] a social primate, [humans] evolved within-group amity<sup>1</sup> and between-group enmity<sup>2</sup>. By nature, then, we are cooperative and competitive, altruistic and selfish, greedy and generous, peaceful and bellicose<sup>3</sup>.

— *Michael Shermer, 2006*

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1 friendly relations

2 feeling of opposition or hostility

3 aggressive and willing to fight

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