

Philosophy & Reason

marking guide and response

External assessment 2025

Extended response (50 marks)

Assessment objectives

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

1. define and use terminology relating to political philosophy to demonstrate an understanding of meaning
2. explain concepts, methods, principles and theories relating to political philosophy
3. interpret and analyse arguments, ideas and information relating to political philosophy
4. organise and synthesise ideas and information to understand, engage with and construct arguments relating to political philosophy
5. evaluate claims and arguments inherent in theories and views relating to political philosophy
6. create an analytical essay response that communicates ideas and arguments relating to political philosophy.

Purpose

This document consists of a marking guide and a sample response.

The marking guide:

- provides a tool for calibrating external assessment markers to ensure reliability of results
- indicates the correlation, for each question, between mark allocation and qualities at each level of the mark range
- informs schools and students about how marks are matched to qualities in student responses.

The sample response:

- demonstrates the qualities of a high-level response
- has been annotated using the marking guide.

Mark allocation

Where a response does not meet any of the descriptors for a question or a criterion, a mark of '0' will be recorded.

Marking guide

Explaining concepts

(Table 1)

| The response, for libertarianism: | M | The response, for the selected political philosophy: | M |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">clearly explains relevant tenets of libertarianism that are plausible in all key aspects | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">clearly explains relevant tenets of the political philosophy that are plausible in all key aspects | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">explains relevant tenets of libertarianism that are plausible in most key aspects | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">explains relevant tenets of the political philosophy that are plausible in most key aspects | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">explains tenet/s of libertarianism | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">explains tenet/s of the political philosophy | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">describes an aspect of libertarianism | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">describes an aspect of the political philosophy | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

Determining relationships

(Table 2)

| The response, for libertarianism: | M | The response, for the selected political philosophy: | M |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> insightfully establishes connections within or between relevant ideas | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> insightfully establishes connections within or between relevant ideas | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes connections within or between relevant ideas | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes connections within or between relevant ideas | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a connection within or between ideas associated with libertarianism | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a connection within or between ideas associated with the political philosophy | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies a connection within or between ideas associated with libertarianism | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies a connection within or between ideas associated with the political philosophy | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

Deconstructing arguments

(Table 3)

| The response, for libertarianism: | M | The response, for the selected political philosophy: | M |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a precise deconstruction of argument/s examines claim/s or idea/s derived from the stimulus accurately identifies premise/s and conclusion/s | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a precise deconstruction of argument/s examines claim/s or idea/s inherent in the political philosophy that are relevant to the question accurately identifies premise/s and conclusion/s | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a considered deconstruction of argument/s examines claim/s or idea/s derived from the stimulus identifies premise/s and conclusion/s, with minor error/s | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a considered deconstruction of argument/s examines claim/s or idea/s inherent in the political philosophy identifies premise/s and conclusion/s, with minor error/s | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a deconstruction of libertarian argument/s | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a deconstruction of argument/s from the perspective of the political philosophy | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examines a claim or idea in libertarianism | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examines a claim or idea in the political philosophy | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

Evaluating claims, arguments and views

(Table 4)

| The response, for libertarianism: | M | The response, for the selected political philosophy: | M |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an insightful evaluation of relevant libertarian idea/s, claim/s and/or argument/s uses all appropriate reasoning criteria for the evaluation of an argument and its claim/s | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an insightful evaluation of relevant idea/s, claim/s and/or argument/s of the political philosophy uses all appropriate reasoning criteria for the evaluation of an argument and its claim/s | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a considered evaluation of relevant libertarian idea/s, claim/s and/or argument/s uses most appropriate reasoning criteria for the evaluation of an argument and its claim/s | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a considered evaluation of relevant idea/s, claim/s and/or argument/s of the political philosophy uses most appropriate reasoning criteria for the evaluation of an argument and its claim/s | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an evaluation of libertarianism uses some appropriate reasoning criteria for the evaluation of an argument and its claim/s | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an evaluation of the political philosophy uses some appropriate reasoning criteria for the evaluation of an argument and its claim/s | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> states a judgment concerning libertarianism <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an evaluation of an argument or its claim/s | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> states a judgment concerning the political philosophy <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an evaluation of an argument or its claim/s | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

Using terminology

(Table 5)

| The response, for libertarianism: | M | The response, for the selected political philosophy: | M |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">consistently and appropriately uses relevant terminology | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">consistently and appropriately uses relevant terminology | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">consistently and appropriately uses relevant terminology, with minor error/s or omission/s | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">consistently and appropriately uses relevant terminology, with minor error/s or omission/s | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">appropriately uses some relevant terminology | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">appropriately uses some relevant terminology | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">includes some relevant terminology | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">includes some relevant terminology | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

Constructing arguments

(Table 6)

| The response: | M |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• skilfully constructs a cogent argument that considers and resolves key aspects of the question• uses relevant philosophical ideas and the stimulus effectively to support this argument | 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• constructs a cogent argument that considers and resolves key aspects of the question• uses relevant philosophical ideas and the stimulus to support this argument | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• constructs an argument that responds to the question• uses philosophical ideas and/or the stimulus to support this argument | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• states a perspective that responds to the question• uses an idea to support this perspective | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• includes a statement that responds to the question | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

Creating and communicating

(Table 7)

| The response: | M |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conveys ideas and an argument in response to the question succinctly, purposefully and fluently• uses the analytical essay genre, with paragraphs logically sequenced to support a central thesis | 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conveys ideas and an argument relating to the question fluently• uses the analytical essay genre, with paragraphs sequenced to support a central thesis | 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conveys ideas and an argument relating to the question• uses some features of the analytical essay genre | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conveys ideas relating to political philosophy | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conveys an idea relating to political philosophy | 1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |



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