

**Subject:**

Philosophy

**Marking arrangements**

Tests are to be marked by Colleges.

**Rubric**

**You are expected to spend one hour completing this assessment;** a slightly broader time window is provided to allow for download and upload of the paper. If you have notified us of extra time requirements, this will be factored into the allowable upload deadline. If you do experience any difficulty during the Assessment window, either technical or personal, you should report this to us as soon as possible afterwards, for taking into proper consideration.

This test has two parts.

**Part I** contains ten multiple-choice questions, and one longer question. We suggest that you take no more than **20 minutes** to complete all questions. There are no penalties for incorrect answers, so you should attempt every question.

**Part II** contains two essay questions. You should select **one** question and answer it. We suggest that you take no more than **40 minutes** to read the question, answer the question and upload your answer. The word limit is 1,000 words.

All answers should be typed, preferably in a format readable in MS Word, and the use of word-processing apps is permitted. Papers may be checked using anti-plagiarism software, and you should not discuss your answers or the paper with anyone else.

Please save your answers as a PDF with the file name:

UCAS number\_College\_Surname\_First Name

**Philosophy Admissions Test 2021****Part I: Multiple Choice**

This part of the test contains ten **multiple-choice questions**, and one longer **puzzle question**. We suggest you take no more than **20 minutes** to complete all questions.

## Short Questions

1. In most species, young salmon — the ocean; some species of salmon, however, — fresh water throughout their life cycle.

Which of the following fillings makes best sense of the above passage?

- a. stay in/avoid
- b. travel to/remain in
- c. must leave/consist of
- d. journey from/journey to
- e. spend time in/spurn

2. “They tell us that vaccines make you unlikely to get ill. However, after the majority of the population were vaccinated, recent government data shows that the majority of new cases are among vaccinated people. So, they must have been wrong.”

Which of the following most closely resembles this argument?

- a. Most people who have been bitten by a mosquito get malaria. You’ve been bitten by a mosquito, so you’ll get malaria.
- b. Most planes land safely. So, driving is more dangerous than flying.
- c. We know that this animal is a crustacean; since most crustaceans are aquatic, this animal is probably aquatic.
- d. Most criminals are right-handed. So, most right-handed people are criminals.
- e. Everyone who is important will be there: so if you don’t go, you won’t be important.

3. He is clearly —: just look at the — between his words and his deeds. Do not be — by him!

Which of the following fillings makes best sense of this passage?

- a. honest/consonance/deceived
- b. lying/discrepancy/deceived
- c. dangerous/indifference/intimidated
- d. trustworthy/relationship/persuaded
- e. confused/relationship/released

4. The main effect of privatising healthcare would be a huge growth in the number of private providers. This would stimulate competition, and lead to a more effective and efficient market. The government should always try to maximise the efficiency of the markets which it is responsible for.

Which of the following conclusions can be most clearly drawn from this passage?

- a. Privatising healthcare would improve the quality of care available to patients.
- b. More efficient markets can increase inequality in provision.
- c. The government should privatise healthcare.
- d. A private healthcare market would be more confusing for patients.
- e. Doctors should support the privatisation of healthcare.

5. In the last 40 years, the number of people worldwide who believe in ghosts has gone up by almost 400%. This must be because religiosity is declining: over the last decade, the number of Americans who identify as Christian has fallen by 12 percentage points. Which of the following is **not** a problem with this argument?
- It compares a 40-year change with a 10-year change.
  - It assumes that all religious Americans are Catholic.
  - It infers a causal relationship from a correlation.
  - It draws a conclusion about the global population from data about the USA.
  - It compares a proportionate change with an absolute change.
6. Anne would like to go see the latest Marvel movie, but decides that she doesn't have time. Going to see the latest James Bond movie will take even longer than going to see the latest Marvel movie; so we can safely conclude that Anne won't go to see that movie either. Which of the following most closely resembles this argument?
- Bob likes both cheese and wine; if he eats more cheese then he can drink more wine; so, Bob will eat more cheese.
  - Charlie can't afford to buy the new Porghini with the special racing stripes. Even though last year's model without the racing stripes is cheaper, he can't afford to buy that either; so, he won't buy either car.
  - Deborah has a better chess score than Ewan, and Fiona's chess score is lower than Ewan's; so, Fiona's chess score is also lower than Deborah's.
  - Gregory would like to see the latest Marvel movie, but Hannah would like to see the latest James Bond movie. Hannah is more assertive than Gregory, so they'll go see the Bond movie.
  - Ingrid has many flowers. Johanna has only a few flowers. So, Ingrid should give some flowers to Johanna.
7. All dogs are mammals. Not all mammals are cats. All mammals are either cats or dogs. If all the above statements were true, what could be drawn as a conclusion?
- All cats are mammals.
  - If a mammal is a dog, then it is also a cat.
  - No cat is a dog.
  - There are no cats.
  - At least some dogs are not cats.
8. There are three colours of socks in my sock drawer: red, blue, and green. If I take three socks out of the drawer, I am guaranteed to get two distinct colours; given this, what is the largest number of socks the drawer could contain?
- 4
  - 5
  - 6
  - 7
  - Not enough information to say.

9. You are interrogating three criminal suspects: Jones, Bones, and Wilson. Jones says, "Whatever Bones is about to tell you is false". Bones says, "Don't believe him: that's a barefaced lie". Wilson says "at most two of us are lying". How many of the suspects are lying?
- 0
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - Not enough information to say
10. If Mary is to do better in her exams, she must be willing to put in more work. However, it is clear that she has no intention of working harder; so, her exam scores will not improve.  
Which of the following most closely resembles this argument?
- Bill and Ben will need to spend more money if they want their business to be a success. They've both said how much success means to them; so, they'll spend more money.
  - If Bill has been working hard, then the business will have been making more money. From the accounts, it's clear that revenues from the business have shot up; so, Bill must have been really working hard.
  - Ben must spend less money if the business is to continue being a success. Unfortunately, his ability to budget is appalling, so the business won't do as well in the future.
  - If Bill and Ben are to get a loan from the bank, they'll have to show that they have a realistic plan for success. Neither of them are very good at making concrete plans, so that's something they'll need to work on improving.
  - If Ben has been embezzling funds, then Bill will be furious. If Bill gets furious, then employee morale will nosedive. So we'd better hope that Ben hasn't embezzled anything, or else employee morale will be compromised.

### **Puzzle Question: Who Likes Whom?**

Alice, Bob, and Charlie have been exchanging messages. Eve has intercepted their messages, but she doesn't know who the sender and receiver of each message was.

Assuming everyone is telling the truth, use the following excerpts from people's messages to determine who likes whom, and who sent and received each message. (Note: If a message talks about someone in the third person, then that person is neither the sender nor the receiver.)

- "I like you, but you're not the only one I like; yet you are the only one who likes me back."
- "Bob likes me, but I don't like Bob."
- "I like just one person, and it's not you."
- "Charlie doesn't like anyone, and you're the only one who likes Charlie."

5. "Alice likes you, and no one else."

Eve continues intercepting messages. A second round of messages are exchanged, discussing the first set of messages.

Assuming, again, that everyone is telling the truth, who sent which message to whom? (Again, if a message refers to 'someone', or talks about someone in the third person, then that person is neither the sender nor the receiver.)

6. "Charlie told me that you like me."
7. "Someone told me that they don't like me."
8. "I told someone that I like them."
9. "Someone told me that they don't like you and that you don't like them."

## Part II: Essay

For this part of the test, select **one essay question** out of the two given below and answer it. We suggest you take no more than **40 minutes** to read the question, answer the question and upload your answer. Answers should be typed. The word limit is 1,000 words.

1. At some time in the future, you have become an agent on Her Majesty's Secret Service. As part of a new experimental programme, your brain is removed from your body and placed in a vat. Both your body and your brain are then outfitted with transmitters, so that your brain is able to remotely control your body. While your brain remains in the vat at all times, your body now leaves the facility to accomplish a secret mission in a far away country. After braving some danger, you complete the mission successfully, and your body is happily reunited with your brain. But one question still troubles you: During the time of their separation, where were you?
2. Is the survival of mankind beyond our own life spans and those of all the people that we now know, love and care about something that should really concern us? Why?/Why not?

## Part I Answer Key

### A. Short Questions

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. c
7. e
8. c
9. b
10. c

## B. Longer Question

Alice likes Bob but not Charlie; Bob likes both Alice and Charlie; and Charlie likes no-one.  
The first set of messages were sent between the following people:

1. Bob to Alice
2. Charlie to Alice
3. Alice to Charlie
4. Alice to Bob
5. Charlie to Bob

The second set of messages were sent between the following people:

6. Bob to Alice
7. Charlie to Bob
8. Bob to Charlie
9. Bob to Charlie