DISTRIBUTED COMPETITION ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE

PHILOSOPHY

10th Grade

Time needed to complete the tasks – 120 minutes
Maximum number of points – 100

Part 1. *(0 – 60 points)*

Modern philosophers often resort to mental experiments in order to test their own hypotheses, prove their opponents wrong, or find new solutions for well-known problems. Below are some of the most popular mental experiments. Read the text and answer the questions.

Task 1. *(0 – 30 points)*

When passing an asteroid belt, Pirx the Pilot's spaceship was seriously damaged. In order to get back home, Pirx decides to use the teleporter.

The teleporter's manual reads the following: "If you turn on the teleporter, connect it to the receiver located on Earth, and enter the cockpit, the device will immediately and safely break up your body into molecules. The molecular blueprint will then be sent back to Earth where the receiver containing a set of respective atoms will assemble you back in place."

Pirx uses the device to return to Earth where his family, friends, and colleagues treat him as a hero. However, Pirx is in doubt.

Am I the same person who entered the teleporter's cockpit? Or am I a new human being only hours-old, despite the memories about the past (and were they even real)? Didn't I die in the asteroid belt when I was disassembled and annihilated in the teleporter's cockpit?

Help Pirx answer these questions. Substantiate your answers.

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Task 2. *(0 – 30 points)*

A driver who lost control of a streetcar can only move it to another track. There are five men working on this track and only one on the other track. Anyone who gets in street car's way is going to get killed. Five lives versus one are at stake. The driver is torn apart because it is his responsibility not to harm people at all.

Can we definitively say that the driver should steer the streetcar to a track with only one worker on it? Explain your answer based on the ethical theories you know.

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Part 2. *(0 – 40 points)*

Solve these logical problems and explain your thought process.

Task 1. *(0 – 10 points)*

There are six people in a guerrilla unit. Their names are Aleksandra, Boris, Vladimir, Galina, Dmitriy, and Yevgeniya. They perform sabotage attacks once a week. Some attacks are successful while others are not. Only three to four people instead of the entire group participate in these attacks. It is known that two out of those six are enemy spies. It is because of them that some of the attacks were unsuccessful.

Recently, there have been four attacks, two of them successful and two not. Boris, Galina, and Dmitriy participated in the first successful attack. Boris, Galina, and Yevgeniya were the ones participating in the first unsuccessful attack. Alexandra, Boris, Galina, and Dmitriy participated in the second successful attack. Boris, Vladimir, and Yevgeniya were the ones participating in the second unsuccessful attack.

Tomorrow is the time for the fifth attack. Three people should be selected to participate. In order for it to be successful, there should be no enemy spies on the team. Select the three people that should make up the team for the next attack to be successful.

Explain your choice by using logical reasoning, in particular, inductive reasoning. What is a logically correct conclusion?

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Task 2. *(0 – 10 points)*

There are two vaccination centers in two neighboring cities, one per each city. Citizens of these cities are inoculated only from a new virus. One member of medical staff works at each of these centers. They inoculate only the citizens of their respective cities. One medical worker's name is Konstantin, the other's is Nikolay. Konstantin gives vaccines to everybody and to those who don't inoculate themselves, while Nikolay only inoculates those who don't inoculate themselves.

Can Konstantin and Nikolay give vaccine to themselves?

Answer the question and explain your thought process. What is a logically correct conclusion?

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Task 3. *(0 – 20 points)*

Protagoras, a famous Greek sophist, once found out that one of his three students had not paid their student fees. It can either be Euathlus, Prodicus, or Phaedrus. Find out who was the one that had not paid. If Euathlus had paid, then both Prodicus and Phaedrus had not. If Euathlus and Prodicus, Phaedrus had also paid.

Answer the question and explain your thought process. What is a logically correct conclusion?

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