

## DISTRIBUTED COMPETITION ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE

### PHILOSOPHY

11<sup>th</sup> 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)

Anfisa has been living in a room with only black or white items. She is an exceptional scientist, but she studies the world through a black and white monitor. She is an expert in neurophysiology of vision. Anfisa is gradually learning physical information and finding out what happens when we see a ripe cherry or the sky and use the terms like ‘red’, ‘blue’ etc. Then, Anfisa is finally allowed to leave the room and see the world in living colour.

**Will Anfisa learn anything new when she sees things that are not black or white? Explain your answer.**

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##### **Task 2.** (0 – 30 points)

A group of speleologists were careless to have an overweight man lead them out of a cave. However, as he exits the cave, he gets stuck and blocks the way out for the others. It would be reasonable to sit and wait until the overweight man loses some weight, but there is a problem – the ground waters are rising. Fortunately (or unfortunately), the group of men have some dynamite that they can blow the overweight man with. They either use the dynamite or they will drown and die.

**Ethically, can they use the dynamite or not? 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)**

An evil demon wants to play a trick on you. He says he is going to send a thousand and one frogs into your house. He puts two boxes in front of you. Under one box is a book containing a spell that will send frogs back to the marsh (Book 1). Under the other box is a book with a spell that will make your house a marsh (Book 2). The writing on one box says, “If the writing on the other box is false, Book 1 is under this box.” The writing on the other box says, “Either the writing on the other box is true, or Book 1 is under this box.” You should choose one of the boxes and read a spell out loud. Which box should you choose to send the frogs back to the marsh?

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

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**Task 2. (0 – 10 points)**

There once lived three brothers who always forgot the name of one of the brothers. They forgot the older brother’s name on Mondays, the middle brother’s name on Wednesday, and the younger brother’s name on Fridays. You overhear the following conversation.

1: I am definitely not the older brother.

2: Of course, because your name is Timofey. What is my name then?

3: I don’t remember but two days ago everyone forgot that my name was Daniil.

Can you determine what day it is today and which brothers Timofey and Daniil are?

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

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**Task 3. (0 – 20 points)**

Three wise men have decided to drink some compote but, according to an ancient law, the compote can only be drunk from a blue cup. However, they only have one blue cup. They also have three black and two white cups. To prevent cheating, the wise men's assistants give them black and white cups so that the wise men can't see which cup they have got. Then, they open their eyes and see which cup the other two have. The first one to guess and logically explain which cup they have will get the blue cup. Today, the first wise man has got a white cup, and the other two have got black cups. Is anyone going to drink compote today? If so, who is this going to be?

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

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