



**Notes for those intending to read PPE (Phil, Pols and Econ) or PPL (Phil and Psych / Phil and Ling)**

**Introduction to Philosophy**

This paper consists of three sections: Logic, General Philosophy, and Moral Philosophy. Their respective aims are as follows:

- General Philosophy:** to introduce some basic philosophical problems about knowledge and reality, including the nature of knowledge, scepticism, perception, induction, primary and secondary qualities, the relation of mind and body, personal identity, and free will.
- Moral Philosophy:** to introduce some fundamental issues in ethics (the nature of well-being, theories of morality, the proof of utilitarianism, the relationship between individual well-being and moral demands, the justification of rights, the nature of justice) via a study of J S Mill's *Utilitarianism*.
- Logic:** to introduce concepts and techniques that are fundamental to evaluating rigorous argument.

PPE students will study all three topics during their first year, starting with Logic, and will sit a prelim exam on all three after three terms. PPL students study the same three topics but sit their prelim exam after two terms.

The books listed below are particularly recommended – they cover many of the topics you will study in philosophy during the first year. It will be assumed that you will have read the books marked with an asterisk before coming to Oxford.

**Mill (Moral Philosophy)**            \*J S Mill Utilitarianism, edited by R. Crisp (Oxford University Press)

   B Williams, Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy (Routledge)

   A. MacIntyre, A Short History of Ethics (Routledge)

**Logic**                                    \*Volker Halbach, The Logic Manual, (Oxford University Press)

   The supporting material for The Logic Manual is now freely accessible at:

<http://logicmanual.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/>

**General Philosophy**                \*R Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy (trans. J. Cottingham)

   T. Nagel, Mortal Questions (Cambridge University Press)

   S. Blackburn, Think (Oxford University Press)

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