The philosophical analysis

IB DP Philosophy internal assessment: the philosophical analysis of a non-philosophical stimulus

Always there

> The advert is not philosophy, but it hides philosophical questions.

- An advert for an AI companion app: a young person alone at night.
- "Always there. Always understands you."

The internal assessment

> Up to 2,000 words on one everyday stimulus.

- About 20 hours of the course.
- Your own argument, not a summary of philosophers.

Choosing a stimulus

Not allowed

A textbook extract.

A famous thought experiment.

Good

An advert, a photograph.

A cartoon, a game.

Is it a philosophical question?

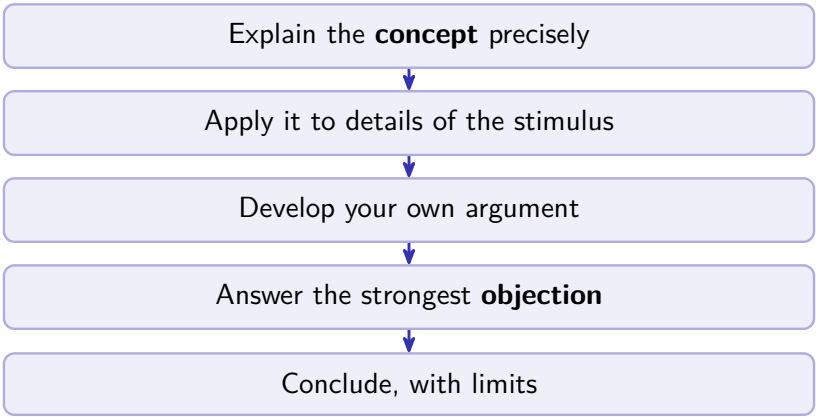
Not philosophical	**Philosophical**
How many people use AI apps?	Can an AI be a real friend?
Do adverts make us buy more?	Is persuading through emotion wrong?

The framing sentence

> Stimulus, **concept**, question: in one sentence.

- "This advertisement raises the question of whether friendship requires two beings who can both understand each other."
- It joins the stimulus, a concept and the question.

The five moves



Three kinds of friendship

> The app gives the two lower kinds; the advert claims the highest.

- Aristotle: the highest needs two who wish good for each other.
- The app offers company and advice.

The argument

> No wishes of its own, so no friendship of the highest kind.

- Step by step, in your own voice.
- The advert sells the feeling of friendship.

Objection and reply

Objection

We judge human friends by behaviour,

and the AI behaves like a friend.

Reply

We know how the app was built:

to keep us using it.

The conclusion

> Valuable as a lower friendship; ”understood” is misleading.

- A clear answer, and its limits.
- It depends on the open question of machine minds.

Common mistakes

> The gallery, the report and the drift.

- Philosophers are tools for your argument.
- Reason; do not drift into survey data.

Check yourself

