# Philosophy and contemporary issues

IB DP Philosophy HL extension: philosophy and contemporary issues (Paper 3)

# Can machines think?

> Has science answered Turing, or shown the question was never purely scientific?

- Alan Turing, 1950, replaced the question with a test.
- Today people talk daily with AI that passes versions of it.

# The HL extension

An unseen text, read as a philosopher.

- What philosophy can say about today's problems.
- And what philosophy itself is.

# What philosophy does

> Clarify concepts, test arguments, imagine cases.

- Intuitions can differ between cultures and people.
- How much should they count?

# Two parts of one question

> Keep the conceptual and the empirical apart.

- Science says what is the case.
- Philosophy asks what concepts mean, and what should be.

# Machines and minds

| Position | Claim |
|---|---|
| **Turing test** (1950) | cannot tell it apart: call it thinking |
| **Chinese room** (Searle, 1980) | following rules is not understanding |
| functionalism | a mind is what it does, not its material |

# The Chinese room

> Passing the test without understanding a word.

- John Searle, 1980.
- Behaviour and understanding can come apart.

# Rights and blame

> If an AI had a mind, would it have rights?

- The debate connects to personhood.
- And to moral responsibility.

# The non-identity problem

> No one is worse off, yet it still feels wrong.

- Derek Parfit: today's policies change who will be born.
- "Harm to a particular person" may not be all of ethics.

# Animals and nature

## Animals

They can suffer,

so they count (Singer).

## Nature

Valuable in itself,

or only for us?

# Algorithms and freedom

## A compatibilist

Free, if you act on

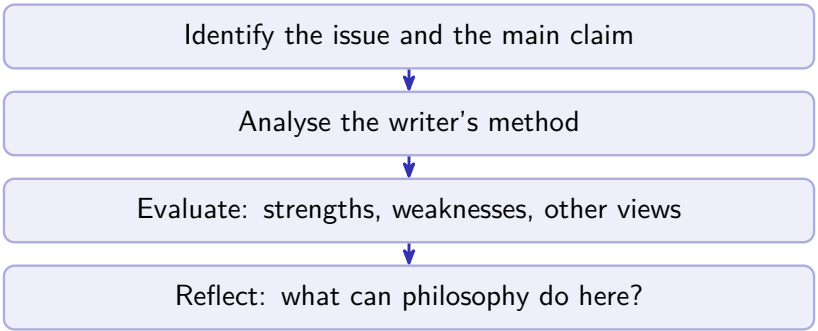
desires you accept.

## A critic

The system shapes

the desires themselves.

# Answering Paper 3



# Worked plan

1. **Method** a conceptual question treated as empirical
2. **Searle** behaviour and understanding come apart
3. **Functionalist** understanding is the right behaviour

## Decision

Science says what systems do; philosophy says what counts as thinking.

# Check yourself

