

NM filosofi for vgs, 2. runde, Oslo handelsgymnasium, 12.03.2026

Time: 240 min

Language: The essay must be written in English.

Aid: Students may use English dictionaries only. The use of any other aid, such as personal notes, a philosophical encyclopedia or the Internet, is forbidden.

All mobile phones, switched off or in Flightmode, to be placed in front of the person monitoring the students.

Short guide for the students

The essays are to be concise and to the point.

The students are not expected to know the philosophical works of the author on whose citation they are writing. Neither are they assumed to know the larger context of the citation.

All that is expected of the students, as far as the citation is concerned, is that they can provide a coherent and relevant interpretation of the citation. That is;

(a) to identify a philosophically meaningful question that is in accordance with the whole citation, and

(b) to identify and discuss an associated claim (or an idea) that is being presented.

The students are expected to present their own philosophical viewpoint on the matter, hopefully backed by strong, coherent arguments along the way.

TOPICS – CHOOSE ONE OUT OF THE FOUR

Please copy the topic you have chosen as a heading of your essay, or mark clearly the number of the topic you have chosen.

1. “[...] what observers see, the subjective experience that they undergo, when viewing an object or scene is not determined solely by the images on their retinas but depends also on the experience, knowledge and expectations of the observer.”

Alan F. Chalmers, *What is this thing called Science?*, Open University Press, Buckingham, 2000, p. 7.

2. **“Not everything can be seen or touched, prodded or measured. Numbers are not physical. Morality is not physical. There are objective empirical or scientific truths (‘The paperback of *Reasons and Persons* weighs over 300 grammes’), there are objective mathematical truths (‘ $2+2=4$ ’), and there are objective moral truths (‘Torturing innocent children is wrong’). Only the first is open to empirical investigation; but the latter two are equally objective.”**

David Edmonds: *Parfit. A Philosopher and His Mission to Save Morality*. Princeton University Press, 2023, p. 256

3. **“Let us, therefore, conclude boldly that man is a machine, and that the entire universe contains only one single diversely modified substance.”**

Julien Offray de La Mettrie, *Man a Machine*, Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis 1994, p. 76.

4. **“Freedom is not sacrificed only when others tell us what to say, where to go, how to behave. A society that claims to enable people to realize their potential, but fails to change the structures that prevent everyone from flourishing, is also oppressive. And yet, despite all constraints, we never lose our inner freedom: the freedom to do what is right.”**

Lea Ypi. *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History*. London: Penguin Books, 2022, p. 305.