PART 1 Theoretical and historical introduction

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   (a) A definition of promise
   (b) Promise: objectively existing phenomenon or human construction?
   (c) Testing component elements of the definition of promise
     (i) A promise is more than merely an internal mental process: promises as speech acts demonstrating commitment
     (ii) A promise is a commitment to a performance of the promisor
     (iii) A promise must manifest more than an illusory commitment or one which the promisor is patently unable to fulfil
     (iv) A promise must relate to the future
     (v) A promise must state a commitment in favour of another party
     (vi) Things which are not components of the definition

2. Three crucial qualities of relevance to promises: gratuitousness, conditionality, unilaterality
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