



**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 1**

Friday 3 November 2000 (afternoon)

3 hours

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer three questions, chosen from at least two different Sections.

*Not all questions are formulated in the same way: sometimes they are direct questions, sometimes they are statements you are asked to explain and assess.*

*For each question you choose, you should do the following: explain the concepts involved in the question; identify the presuppositions of the question, if there are any; find arguments (and counter-arguments) and examples (and counter-examples) to support your views and your answer.*

### **Section 1: Myself and Others**

1. Can human behaviour be reduced to explanations in mechanical terms?
2. Is it possible to love somebody we don't really know?
3. 'The fact that we are genetically different *should* justify the superiority of some (the most talented) over others (the less talented).' Explain and critically assess this proposition.

### **Section 2: Individuals and Institutions**

4. How can we define injustice?
5. 'Since I do not have a responsibility for the laws and norms which were decided before my birth, what was decided before my birth should not limit my Liberty.' Explain and critically assess this proposition.
6. Could there be a society without coercion?

### **Section 3: Human Environment**

7. Is it justified to differentiate between natural and artificial needs?
8. If it is impossible to combine the well-being of all humans and the preservation of nature, what should we choose?
9. Is work an impediment to the true enjoyment of life or do earnings provide the means to enjoy it?

**Section 4: Reason**

10. Is intuition rational?
11. Do we need not only sensations but also concepts in order to perceive?
12. ‘The only function of reason is to provide a justification of and means for satisfying our passions.’ Explain and critically assess this statement.

**Section 5: Meaning and Value**

13. Is it self-evident that torture is morally wrong and that compassion is morally right?
  14. Should we regard the International Declaration of Human Rights as the minimum acceptable foundation for a secular international ethics?
  15. Since different religions make contradictory claims, does it not follow that they are all true or all false?
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