



**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 2**

Monday 6 November 2000 (morning)

2 hours

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: Write a philosophical commentary on the passage.
- Section B: Answer one question.

## SECTION A

*Read carefully the following passage. Then, using your own words, write a commentary on it in which:*

- *you identify the main point of the passage*
- *you explain the argument and make its assumptions explicit*
- *you discuss its strengths and weaknesses, elaborating on some of the implications of the passage*
- *you propose alternative lines of reasoning if possible*
- *you reach a conclusion about the main issue.*

If an ordinary man is to find happiness in the course of his everyday life he must plan to achieve goals that are within the reach of his will. Every day when he wakes up he must decide what things he is going to accomplish, so that he can experience the simple joy of their completion. Simple tasks, such as putting bookshelves in order, writing an article, meeting a friend, going to the theatre, are what constitute momentary happiness. The happiness we feel comes from our determination to see the task through to completion. However, this does not imply that we ought to limit ourselves to the immediate goals of everyday life. We need to carry out more private projects such as sharing intimacy in an engaging loving relationship. Their successful fulfilment is much more complex.

Carlos Gurméndez, *Basic feelings of human life*, 1994

**SECTION B**

Answer **one** question.

1. **Plato: *The Republic Books V–VII***  
Explain and discuss Plato’s view of the importance of the development of morals for political leaders.
  
2. **Aquinas: *Summa Theologica***  
Explain and discuss Aquinas’ view of the soul being in each part of the body.
  
3. **Descartes: *Meditations/Discourse Part 4***  
Explain and discuss why the Cartesian doubt is called methodical and not sceptical.
  
4. **Locke: *Second Treatise of Government***  
Explain and discuss Locke’s contention that men entrust to the state the liberty they enjoy in the state of nature in order to guarantee their liberty in society.
  
5. **Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality***  
Explain and discuss Rousseau’s view of the advantages and disadvantages presented by reason.
  
6. **Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals***  
Explain and discuss why, according to Kant, the Categorical Imperative should be universally valid.
  
7. **Nietzsche: *Genealogy of Morals***  
Explain and discuss Nietzsche’s view of Communism.
  
8. **Marx: *The German Ideology/Theses on Feuerbach***  
Explain and discuss Marx’s materialistic conception of history and its implications.
  
9. **James: *Pragmatism***  
Explain and discuss how James contrasts the pragmatist and rationalist view of truth and reality and claims that the pragmatist view is ‘humanistic’.

**10. Russell: *Problems of Philosophy***

Explain and discuss whether, according to Russell, we know ourselves better by acquaintance or by description.

**11. Freud: *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis / Outline of Psychoanalysis***

Explain and discuss Freud's idea that to interpret dreams we have to analyse them 'in the direction opposite to the dream-work'.

**12. Sartre: *Being and Nothingness***

Explain and discuss one of the attitudes that, according to Sartre, I may adopt in order to recover the freedom the other deprives me of.

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