

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Thursday 9 May 2002 (morning)

2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each on a different prescribed text.

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1. Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

Explain and discuss Lao Tzu’s view that the “chief rule to live an ethical life is to rely upon the actions of the opposites by living in a manner opposed to the end you seek”.

2. Confucius: *The Analects*

Confucius said: “The superior man understands righteousness; the inferior man understands profit.” Evaluate.

3. Plato: *The Republic*

Plato acknowledged that equality of political opportunities and freedom for the individual to do as he wishes are the main characteristics of democracy. Explain his views in more detail and critically examine his position on democracy.

4. Aristotle: *The Nicomachean Ethics*

Analyse and discuss Aristotle’s view of voluntary and involuntary actions.

5. Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae*

Explain and discuss Aquinas’s view that it is not possible that human understanding is common to all men.

6. Descartes: *Meditations*

Why must Descartes prove God’s goodness?

7. Locke: *Second Treatise of Government*

Why does Locke think he is correct in arguing that the sole function of government is the protection of private property?

8. Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Regarding the notion of causality, explain and discuss Hume’s claim “that it is impossible for us to “think” of any thing, which we have not antecedently “felt”, either by our external or internal senses”.

9. Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality and Social Contract*

Rousseau considered ancient Athens, with its sophisticated arts and sciences, to be morally degenerate compared to the military state of Sparta, with its emphasis on discipline and frugal living.

Why does Rousseau hold this position? Is his argument to support his claim justified?

10. **Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals***
What is the relationship between freedom and reason in the context of Kant's thought, and why is it crucial in the formulation of the categorical imperative?
11. **Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals***
Do you agree with Nietzsche that our moral consciousness is the result of a sickness of the instincts?
12. **Mill: *Essay on Liberty***
Identify the circumstances which, in Mill's view, make it justifiable for society to intervene against an individual. Discuss Mill's justification for his position.
13. **Freud: *Civilisation and its Discontents* and *Outline of Psychoanalysis***
Explain and discuss the conceptual implications of Freud's assumption "that mental life is the function of an apparatus to which we ascribe the characteristics of being extended in space and of being made up of several portions".
14. **Buber: *I and Thou***
Examine critically what Buber means in his claim that: "The You encounters me by grace – it cannot be found by seeking." Discuss.
15. **Ortega y Gasset: *History as a System***
Explain and evaluate Ortega's claim that history is "the systematic science of the radical reality, of my life".
16. **Wittgenstein: *The Blue and Brown Books***
"The kernel of our proposition that that which has pains or sees or thinks is of a mental nature is only, that the word "I" in "I have pains" does not denote a particular body, for we can't substitute for "I" a description of a body."

Outline Wittgenstein's analysis of the problem of solipsism. Do you think he solves the problem?
17. **Arendt: *The Human Condition***
Hannah Arendt claims that "To live an entirely private life means above all to be deprived of all things essential to a truly human life." Explain and discuss.
18. **Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity***
What does de Beauvoir mean by the "Aesthetic Attitude"?

19. Rawls: *A Theory of Justice*

Evaluate John Rawls's argument on moral and religious toleration. Identify the elements justifying this toleration and discuss the validity of his claim.

20. Feyerabend: *Farewell to Reason*

Feyerabend argues that moral debates between opponents from different cultures illustrate tensions between values and not disagreements over facts. Discuss this view of Feyerabend.

21. Foucault: *The History of Sexuality*

Explain and discuss Foucault's method of analysing knowledge of sexuality in terms of power.

22. Putnam: *Reason, Truth and History*

What relevance and meaning can Putnam's analysis of the nature of rationality have? Does his argument have only a theoretical finality or does it have other implications?

23. Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

How does Taylor manage to avoid falling into relativism while at the same time arguing for authenticity?

24. Nussbaum: *Poetic Justice*

Nussbaum argues that if I am a comfortable middle class person, classical utilitarian theories of morality make more demand upon me than most other moral theories. What does Nussbaum mean by saying this? Outline her justifications and examine her claim.
