

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Monday 11 November 2002 (afternoon)

2 hours 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer one question.
- Section B: answer two questions, each on a different Optional Theme.

SECTION A

Answer **one** question (with all its sub-parts) from this section.

Core Theme: What is a “human” being?

Either:

1.



- (a) How does this picture challenge our traditional view of the human condition? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast your view on humanoids with **two** theories of human nature. *[12 marks]*
- (c) “Technology enslaves humanity!” Write a short critical discussion based on this statement. *[15 marks]*

Or:

2.

“There is something within man that cannot be reduced to chemical and biological terms, for man is more than a tiny vagary of whirling electrons. He is more than a wisp of smoke from a limitless smouldering [...] man is a being of spirit; man has a mind, man can reason.”

Martin Luther King Jr, “What is Man”, in *The Measure of a Man*
(Fortress Press; Philadelphia, 1988)

- (a) What philosophical idea(s) about the self can you identify in the passage above? [3 marks]
- (b) Describe and critically examine one of the concepts you have identified above. [12 marks]
- (c) “The self imposed isolation of the hermit or guru is the only way to truly know yourself. Only then can you begin to know others.” Do you agree? [15 marks]

SECTION B

Answer **two** questions from this section, each on a different *Optional Theme*. Each question in this section is worth [30 marks].

Optional Theme 1: Political Philosophy

3. Does it make any sense to talk of virtues outside of a social and political context?
4. “In democracies, the law makers become corrupted by money and self-interest, and so make laws to suit themselves and their sponsors. Under these conditions, civil disobedience is totally justified.” Do you agree with this position?

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. Do concepts embodied in our conceptual schemes reflect a structure in the world that is independent of people’s ability to form concepts? Discuss.
6. Empirical generalizations, like “all swans are white”, though not verifiable, are falsifiable. Analyse and discuss this idea and its repercussions for the justification of scientific knowledge.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. Is globalization an impoverishing or an enriching phenomenon for humankind?
8. “Every language traces around people who speak it a “magic circle”, which makes them, who speak it, different from them, who do not; a “magic circle” from which we can only get out in so far as we get into another language.” Analyse this statement and discuss its implications as to our identity and relationship.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Analyse the role of reason in Islamic and Indian philosophies (Hinduism and Buddhism). Would faith be dramatically affected if reason was denied its role?
10. Could a Muslim who obeys the ethics of Islam be regarded as someone who leads a morally correct life according to the ethical systems of Buddhism and Hinduism? How could the ethical systems of these **three** religions be criticized?

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. People’s control of technology has resulted in a significant increase in physical power over the material world. Has this increase been matched by an equivalent growth in the intellectual and spiritual arena?
12. Analyse and discuss “Labour was the original price paid for all things. All the wealth of the world was originally purchased by labour. Therefore labour should be the highest value ruling human exchange.”

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts

13. What criteria need to be met for a work to qualify as a work of art?
14. “The mass market feeds on art like it feeds on everything else – without discrimination. All art has become is just another product or image to put on postcards. Any meaning and value it had is lost on the public.” Explain and assess the assumptions implicit in this statement.

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. “What can I hope for?” Discuss the assertion that this question has meaning only within the context of a religious belief that offers predetermined possibilities for the future.
16. Within love, there is constant confirmation of my self. This is why religions have developed the notion of a loving God, as in loving me this God validates my own identity. Discuss the concept of a loving God.

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. Many charitable organizations have noticed that the number of female members largely outnumbers the number of male members. Does this suggest that the feminine approach to ethics differs from the masculine?
18. “Because morality can only have meaning and value when we are dealing with other people, then it is obvious that the only way to judge if an action is good or bad is in its usefulness to them and me.” Is this claim true or are there other possibilities?