

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Monday 17 November 2003 (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 chosen from a different Optional Theme.

In answering questions, candidates are expected to:

- *present an argument in an organized way*
- *use clear, precise and appropriate language*
- *identify any assumptions in the question*
- *develop a clear and focused argument*
- *identify the strengths and weaknesses of their response*
- *identify counter-arguments to their response, and address them if possible*
- *provide relevant supporting material, illustrations and/or examples where appropriate*
- *conclude by making a clear, concise and philosophically informed personal response to the examination question.*

SECTION A

*Answer **one** question from this section. Write approximately 800 words divided into: part (a) 50 words, part (b) 250 words, part (c) 500 words.*

Core Theme: What is a “human” being?

Either

1. “What happens when you bite into a chocolate bar? The chocolate melts on your tongue and causes chemical changes in your taste buds; the taste buds send some electrical impulses along the nerves leading from your tongue to your brain, and when those impulses reach the brain they produce further physical changes there; finally, *you taste the taste of chocolate*. What is *that*? Could it just *be* a physical event in some of your brain cells, or does it have to be something of a completely different kind?”

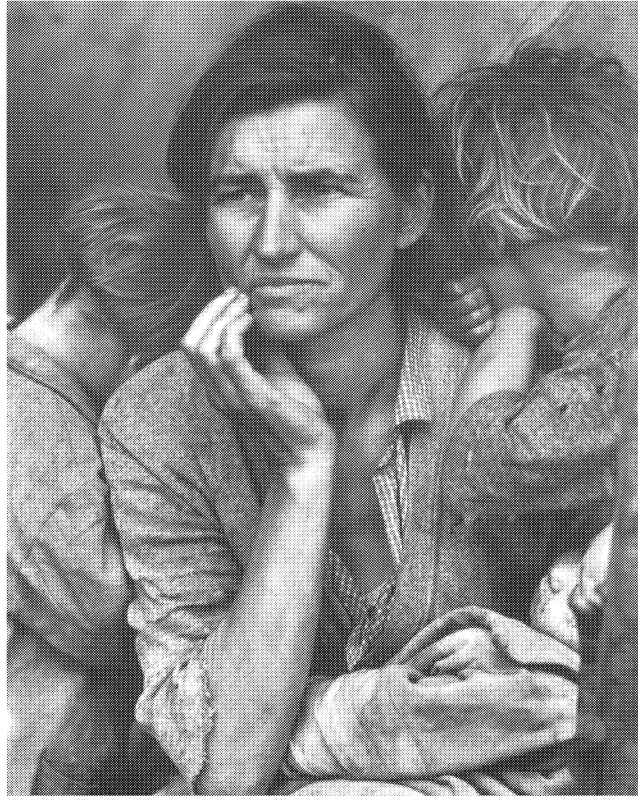
If a scientist took off the top of your skull and looked into your brain while you were eating the chocolate bar, all he would see is a grey mass of neurons. If he used instruments to measure what was happening inside, he would detect complicated physical processes of many different kinds. But would he find the taste of chocolate?”

Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*

- (a) In no more than 50 words, identify the philosophical concept raised by this passage about the person. *[3 marks]*
- (b) In no more than 250 words, compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches to the problem of personal identity. *[12 marks]*
- (c) In no more than 500 words, discuss the meaning of the above passage with regard to knowledge of others. *[15 marks]*

Or

2. Study the picture below and answer the questions that follow.



[Source: *Migrant Mothers* by Dorothea Lange, Library of Congress]

- (a) In no more than 50 words, identify what this picture suggests about the human condition? *[3 marks]*
- (b) In no more than 250 words, describe and assess **two** different philosophical perspectives that offer an individual a possibility to make sense of his/her life. *[12 marks]*
- (c) In no more than 500 words, assess and evaluate the claim that the person who I am is completely determined by the circumstances in which I find myself. *[15 marks]*

SECTION B

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

Optional Theme 1: Political Philosophy

3. “In the name of national security, democratic states must be prepared to limit individual rights and liberties.” Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer.
4. Will society recognise the rights of citizens along with citizens’ duties and responsibilities? Discuss the origin of the concept of rights and with the help of examples, evaluate them.

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. In everyday life, we assume that the world is as we experience it. Discuss whether there are any philosophical reasons to doubt this assumption.
6. We come to know the existence, order, organization, development and function of everything in nature with the help of several paradigms. Explain and discuss this claim with reference to science and scientific theories.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. It has been held that culture is most visibly manifest in art. Is that the case, or is it manifested more in political life? Justify your answer with examples.
8. Analyse and evaluate the extent to which we are able to understand a different or past culture. Justify your answer with examples.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Compare and contrast beliefs about the nature of God in Hinduism and Islam.
10. Explain and discuss the similarities and differences between the Buddhist and Hindu views of the path to salvation.

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. “Technology is the engine of progress enabling human beings to force nature to serve their well-being and further their happiness.” Critically discuss this statement.
12. “Is work valuable?” Analyse and assess this question with the help of examples.

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts

13. “All the so-called aesthetics and metaphysical values of art are only screens to mask its real function: that of a commodity on an exclusive trade market.” With the help of examples, critically discuss this assertion.
14. In cases where art portrays child pornography or senseless brutality, should it be subjected to censorship? Should art ever be censored? Present your case with the help of examples.

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. “If a concept of God combines perfect goodness, limitless power and infinite knowledge, our experience of armed conflict, terrorism, genocide, earthquakes and famine constitute a good reason not to believe in God.” Analyse and critically discuss this statement.
16. Do myth, religion, philosophy and science say essentially the same things, in different “languages”? Justify your argument.

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. “If a being suffers, there can be no moral justification for refusing to take its suffering into account.” Could this proposition serve as a foundation for secular ethics. Justify your position with the help of examples.
18. Is it the case that a morally good person is also a happy person? Develop a philosophical response to this question.