

**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 1**

Wednesday 5 May 2004 (afternoon)

2 hours 30 minutes

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**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. Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

“Nazi policy was beyond racism [...] for Jews were not considered human. [This is] an old trick of language, used often in the course of history. Non-Aryans were never to be referred to as human, but as “figuren”, “dolls”, “wood”, “merchandise”, “rags”. Humans were not being gassed, only “figuren”, so ethics were not being violated. [...] Similarly, the Nazis implemented a directive against Jews owning pets; how can an animal own another? [...] Nazi law prohibited Jews from buying soap; what is the use of soap to vermin?”

[Source: adapted from *Fugitive Pieces*, Anne Michael]

- (a) What does this passage suggest about the human condition? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different views of the human condition. *[12 marks]*
- (c) Based on this passage, discuss the influences that form our perception of the human condition. *[15 marks]*

*Or*

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



[Source and Copyright: *Gary Michael Dault* by Napoleon Brousseau]

- (a) What philosophical issue about the person does this picture suggest? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different approaches to the issue identified above. *[12 marks]*
- (c) Discuss the importance of reading in understanding who “the self” is. *[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. “People invent rights when they want power.” Critically discuss.
4. Is it wrong to remove a democratically elected dictator by force?

### Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. Do you agree that “perceiving is more than believing; it is knowing” why?
6. “All the Laws of Science are based on assumptions that Science cannot prove.” Assess.

### Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. “Because we have put ourselves in our own “zoo”, we find it difficult to break out.” Critically discuss the notion of culture that this quotation implies.
8. “We play different melodies, but we all play the piano.” Is this an appropriate metaphor to describe how culture limits our communication?

### Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Explain and discuss the meaning that “knowing your true self” has in Buddhism and Hinduism.
10. Is it fair to characterize Hinduism and Buddhism as being preoccupied with the development of the individual at the expense of the community, while Islam is preoccupied with the community at the expense of the development of the individual?

### **Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology**

11. “The paradox of work is that although it enriches our lives by giving them meaning, it also leads to someone or something being exploited.” Analyse and evaluate this claim.
12. “Technology is a false friend; it enslaves when it pretends to liberate, alienates when it pretends to be democratic.” Evaluate.

### **Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts**

13. Can a used school bag displayed in an art exhibition be legitimately considered a work of art? Examine and evaluate.
14. Critically assess this claim: “Art exists in the realm of contemplation and imagination. If art becomes an incentive to action it loses its true character, becoming propaganda and pornography.”

### **Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion**

15. Compare and contrast the view of religion as “a leap into absurdity” to the view of religion as cultural indoctrination.
16. In order to believe in God is it necessary that we conceive God as having human characteristics?

### **Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics**

17. People want to live a good life. Should it be a morally good life?
  18. Using an example from applied ethics, evaluate the grounds on which we should justify our moral judgments.
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