

**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 2**

Thursday 6 May 2004 (morning)

2 hours

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

*In answering questions, candidates are expected to:*

- *present an argument in an organized way*
- *use clear, precise and appropriate language, demonstrating that they understand the author's specific terminology*
- *show an understanding of the specific demands of the question*
- *give detailed references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text*
- *provide relevant supportive material and examples where appropriate*
- *analyse the supporting material*
- *state a clear, personal response to the position expressed by the author.*

*Answer **two** questions, each on a different prescribed text.*

**1. Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching***

Examine and evaluate the idea that, strictly speaking, nothing can be said about the Tao.

**2. Confucius: *The Analects***

Explain and assess what Confucius means when he states, “the gentleman collects friends through culture, and through his friends supports humaneness.”

**3. Plato: *The Republic***

Is it the case that Plato believes that rulers are born, not made? Discuss.

**4. Aristotle: *The Nicomachean Ethics***

Using some appropriate examples of Aristotle's virtues, explain and discuss his view on the acquisition of moral goodness.

**5. Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae***

Analyse and discuss Aquinas' reason for thinking that the human soul is not a composite of matter and form.

**6. Descartes: *Meditations***

Why does Descartes introduce the Evil Genius hypothesis? Discuss.

**7. Locke: *Second Treatise on Government***

Are the limits that Locke sets for legislative power justified? Explain your answer.

8. **Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding***  
Explain Hume’s criticism of excessive skepticism. Critically evaluate his argument.
  
9. **Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality and Social Contract***  
Explain and discuss how, according to Rousseau, early human society became corrupt. What remedy does Rousseau propose?
  
10. **Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals***  
Explain and evaluate Kant’s claim that “a free will and a will under moral laws are one and the same”.
  
11. **Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals***  
Nietzsche states that the creative act of *ressentiment* was in giving birth to its own set of values. Evaluate this claim.
  
12. **Mill: *Essay on Liberty***  
With the help of examples, assess Mill’s view that a man can be punished for harming others, but not for harming himself.
  
13. **Freud: *Civilisation and its Discontents* and *Outline of Psychoanalysis***  
Freud contends that “civilized man has exchanged a portion of his possibilities for happiness for a portion of security”. Explain what Freud means by this, and critically analyse it.
  
14. **Buber: *I and Thou***  
Explain the difference Buber sees between “relation” and “experience”. Analyse it critically.
  
15. **Ortega y Gasset: *History as a System***  
“History is a system, the system of human experiences linked in a single, inexorable [inevitable] chain.” Explain how Ortega reaches this conclusion and critically evaluate it.
  
16. **Wittgenstein: *The Blue and Brown Books***  
“The sign (the sentence) gets its significance from the system of signs, from the language to which it belongs. Roughly: understanding a sentence means understanding a language.” Analyse and assess this idea in the context of Wittgenstein’s investigation of meaning.

17. **Arendt: *The Human Condition***  
“World alienation and not self alienation, ..., has been the hallmark of the modern age.”  
Explain and evaluate.
  
  18. **Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity***  
Critically evaluate the role that the concepts of “the present” and “the future” play in de Beauvoir’s ethical theory.
  
  19. **Rawls: *A Theory of Justice***  
Analyse and evaluate Rawls’ claim that the principles of justice define an appropriate path between dogmatism and intolerance on the one side, and a reductionism which regards religion and morality as mere preferences on the other.
  
  20. **Feyerabend: *Farewell to Reason***  
To what extent, if any, do you agree with Feyerabend when he states “...science is a tyranny that removes complexities from real life”?
  
  21. **Foucault: *The History of Sexuality***  
What does Foucault mean when he speaks of the deployment of sexuality? Explain his views and comment critically.
  
  22. **Putnam: *Reason, Truth and History***  
In the context of Putnam’s account of reason and history explain and evaluate his idea that cultural relativism is internally incoherent.
  
  23. **Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity***  
Taylor argues that you cannot live an authentic life without “horizons of significance”. Explain and critically evaluate Taylor’s argument and say why you agree or disagree with his conclusion.
  
  24. **Nussbaum: *Poetic Justice***  
Explain and critically discuss Nussbaum’s view on the judicious spectator.
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