



**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 1**

Tuesday 2 November 2004 (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. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.



[Source: CALVIN AND HOBBS © (1998) Watterson. Reprinted with permission of UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE. All rights reserved.]

- (a) What philosophical issue does this cartoon suggest about personhood? [3 marks]
- (b) Compare and contrast two different philosophical views that deal with the issue that you have identified in (a). [12 marks]
- (c) “I know my self only when I encounter the other.” Discuss and evaluate this claim. [15 marks]

**Or**

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

[The] human world does not come into being or survive without deliberation, evaluation, decision, action [...] and responsibility. It is a world of existential subjects and it objectifies the values that they originate in their creativity and their freedom.

Bernard J. F. Lonergan, *The Subject* (1968)

- (a) What philosophical issue does this passage suggest about the human condition? [3 marks]
- (b) Compare and contrast two philosophical perspectives that deal with the issue you have identified in (a). [12 marks]
- (c) “The *mind* is indivisibly an *embodied mind*.” Discuss and evaluate this statement. [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. “We can no longer call a political system a democracy when only a small minority of the population actually cast a vote.” Critically discuss.
4. A former head of state once commented: “If every man who had an extra-marital affair were to be barred from public office, there would be no one left to govern the world.” Could such acts determine the legitimacy of political leadership?

### Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. Is knowledge intrinsically valuable or is it always the servant of some vested interest?
6. Is what a physicist claims to know about the nature of the universe as certain as what a philosopher claims to know about the nature of reality?

### Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. Cultures are the diverse ways in which human beings process, interpret, develop and transmit information. Analyse and discuss.
8. Does it make sense to speak of “encounter of cultures” from a philosophical point of view?

### Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Explain and critically assess what a full commitment to *ahimsa* (non-violence) entails.
10. Must we understand *Jihad* as a commandment to fight infidels by any means and convert them to Islam?

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

11. Is there a reasonable relationship among profit, labour and the use of natural resources? Discuss.
12. In his article, *The Rise of Robots*, Hans Moravac predicts that robots will free humans from much of the work we do today. Future human generations, he claims, “will probably occupy their days with a variety of social, recreational and artistic pursuits, not unlike today’s comfortable retirees or the wealthy leisure classes.” Critically discuss the desirability of this state of affairs.

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

13. “The very subject matter of art is nudity.” Analyse and discuss.
14. “An image, regardless of the means by which it was created, is worth a thousand words.” Do some branches of the arts say more than others?

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

15. “If God’s existence is possible to demonstrate rationally and if we are rational beings, then surely atheism becomes irrational.” Evaluate this statement.
16. Whenever we visit great religious sites, we are awed by the incredible display of wealth. How might this accumulation of wealth be reconciled with religions professing, for example, vows of poverty and the demand that faithful followers not covet such riches?

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

17. Person A: “Do not lie, it is a wrongful deed”.  
Person B: “Do not buy any strawberry ice-cream for me, I do not like it”.  
  
Are these two statements just expressions of personal preference? Explain and critically assess.
  18. A patient requests a course of treatment which, in the doctor’s professional opinion, is not in his/her best interest. Assess the possible moral issues arising from this situation.
-