



22055601

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Monday 16 May 2005 (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.



[Source: Ed Grant R, *Mindpower – Develop Your Creative Skills* (2002), page 37]

- (a) What philosophical issues are being suggested by the picture? [3 marks]
- (b) With reference to at least **two** conceptions of mind, compare differing views of the nature of the mind. [12 marks]
- (c) “A mind that could know the object-world without any error would know nothing at all” (Alain in *The Gods*, EA Chartier). Discuss. [15 marks]

Or

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



[Source: © DACS 2004]

- (a) What philosophical problem or idea about the human condition does this picture present? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Explain a view of human nature that supports the idea that you have identified and then present a contrasting view of human nature. *[12 marks]*
- (c) To what extent are the constraints imposed by society a reaction to human nature? *[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. Can a pre-emptive war against another state ever be just? Discuss.
4. “The idea of human rights is nonsense. It is talk without meaning.” Critically evaluate this statement.

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. “The truth of my concepts depends entirely on their relationship with my other concepts.” Assess and evaluate this claim.
6. “The problem with science is that it claims to know when all it can do is explain.” Assess and evaluate this claim.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. “True culture is perishing in overproduction of goods and products, in the madness of quantity.” Do you agree with this view of culture? Explain.
8. “It is impossible to truly understand culture, either your own or others, because to have culture means to have a set of assumptions about the world of which we are unaware.” Critically discuss this statement.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Many religions claim that what is divine is the ‘most’ real. To what extent could this claim be argued from the point of view of at least one of the following: Hinduism, Buddhism or Islam?
10. One common concept of the self has, as an essential element, the freedom of the individual. To what extent could the autonomy of the self as a fundamental ethical value be supported by the views of at least one of the following: Buddhism, Islam or Hinduism?

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. Could I be happy in a life free of work? Discuss.
12. “The use of technology is the only way to save nature.” Discuss and evaluate this claim.

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts

13. “Nothing is less accessible to critique than works of art.” Do judgments on works of art have any relevance to art itself?
14. “Real beauty is a reflection of nature, and real art is mainly a way to get closer to nature.” Critically examine this statement.

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. To what extent is it possible to believe in science and in the existence of God? Discuss.
16. Divinity is often represented by images and symbols. Does the use of religious images and symbols distract or help us in understanding the divine?

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. “In moral issues the better argument should prevail over the exercise of power or the force of personality.” Can this statement be justified as an absolute ethical imperative?
 18. Are moral values necessarily, and without exception, dependent on ends? Critically evaluate.
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