



88055601

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Tuesday 15 November 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: Gorka Lejarcegi in *El Pais*, 25 November 2003, Spain]

- (a) Identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue raised by the photograph about the question of the self. *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical issue or concept you identified in part (a). *[12 marks]*
- (c) “There are no mental events; there are only brain processes. There is no immaterial mind; there is only the material body.” Discuss and evaluate this statement with regard to a philosophical understanding of the person. *[15 marks]*

Or

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

Another day is done. Once again, you measure the meaning of a twenty-four hour period against the meaning of so many other periods of equal length assembled in an apparently orderly train of events that you call your life. This day has ended in exactly the same way as the day before, as the day before that, and as all those other days that fade back into what you call your history. You know that it is you who must choose to believe that this day has been a significant event that finds its place in a larger horizon of meaning. This need to choose a perspective, to create a horizon is built into the very fabric of your human nature. But does it really matter? This question cannot be ignored.

- (a) Identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue raised by the passage about the human condition. *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical issue or concept you identified in part (a). *[12 marks]*
- (c) To what degree is a person free to determine the meaning of life? Develop a critical response to this question. *[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. Is it justifiable to construct a hierarchy of human rights?
4. Under what circumstances, if any, is civil disobedience justified?

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. “Truth is dependent on the mind that asserts it – it remains a mystery that we must take on faith from others.” Critically evaluate this statement about the possibility of knowledge.
6. Is it necessary for a claim to be falsifiable for it to be considered a scientific claim?

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. From the point of view of culture, to what extent is world citizenship a desirable aim? Critically discuss.
8. “We are all confronted, at one time or another, with choices as to what sort of life we could lead.” Do cultural institutions contribute to the sort of life we as individuals would like to pursue? Critically discuss.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Discuss the concept of suffering in the philosophical traditions of Buddhism and Islam.
10. Critically evaluate the nature of personal responsibility in **two** of the philosophical traditions you have studied.

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. “Trade Unions are a necessary component of an industrialised society.” Discuss the philosophical implications of this statement.
12. Assess the claim that with the increase in the application of technology the quality of people’s lives has improved.

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of The Arts

13. Genius, craftsman, moralist, visionary, beauty-seeker, worker, producer? What should be the predominant role of the artist in society?
14. “Only art discloses truth that really matters for human life.” Critically evaluate this statement.

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. Assess the validity of the arguments from design as a proof of the existence of God.
16. If God is all powerful and all loving, how is it possible that Evil can exist?

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. “Everybody to count for one, and nobody to count for more than one.” With reference to an issue from Applied Ethics, discuss the ways in which this statement could be applied as a normative ethical approach.
 18. In what ways can an ethical approach, which concentrates on man’s natural characteristics, be a help or hindrance when dealing with moral problems?
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