



**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Monday 19 November 2007 (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. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

That I am a man, this I share with other men.

That I see and hear and that I eat and drink is what all animals do likewise.

But that I am I is only mine and belongs to me and to nobody else;
to no other man, not to an angel nor to God.

[Source: Meister Eckhart, *Latin Fragments*, (13th century)]

- (a) Identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue about the human person raised by this passage. *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical issue or philosophical concept you identified in point (a). *[12 marks]*
- (c) Critically discuss the claim that freedom is the particularly human capacity to establish and preserve one’s identity as a unique person against all forms of power, coercion and persuasion. *[15 marks]*

Or

2. Study the cartoon and answer the questions that follow.



- (a) Identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue about the 'human' condition raised by this cartoon. [3 marks]

- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical issue or philosophical concept you identified in point (a). [12 marks]

- (c) "Human existence is characterized by the fact that the individual is alone and separated from the world. Unable to stand the separation, the individual seeks relatedness and oneness at the same time." Critically discuss. [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. “Political power is one thing, but legitimate political power is justified power, or authority.” Discuss and evaluate.
4. “There will always be numerous answers to the single question of justice.” Discuss and evaluate.

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. To what extent is progress in science a result of refuting existing scientific theories as opposed to acquiring more knowledge and understanding of the world?
6. Discuss the claim that nothing can be known unless it is perceived.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. “A culture without an overt religion cannot be civilized.” Discuss the philosophical implications of this statement.
8. Discuss the idea that xenophobia is a lack of cultural awareness and can be eliminated by education.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Compare and evaluate the ethical attitudes to violence in Hinduism and Islam.
10. Critically evaluate the concept of self in two of the traditions you have studied.

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. What kind of action constitutes an action which produces technology and what kind of objects or devices are technological artifacts?
12. Critically discuss who or what should dictate the function and value of work.

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts

13. “The value of a work of art as art is always intrinsic to the experience it offers. It therefore does not include the beneficial effects, *e.g.* educative, moral or political, the work may have upon our lives.” Critically discuss this statement.
14. Explain and evaluate what art is.

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. “A God who permits evil and suffering is not worthy of worship.” Critically discuss this statement.
16. Critically assess the ways in which language might play a role in shaping and describing religious belief.

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. “The various moral theories are like a variety of lenses. Each one helps us focus on specific aspects of human behavior and when taken together, they give us the best means to evaluate leading a good life.” Discuss and evaluate this claim.
 18. “The case for animal rights rests upon the central assumption that animals, like humans, are sentient beings and, therefore, whatever rights we accord to humans cannot be denied to animals.” Discuss and evaluate.
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