



**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 1**

Thursday 6 November 2008 (afternoon)

2 hours 30 minutes

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**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.

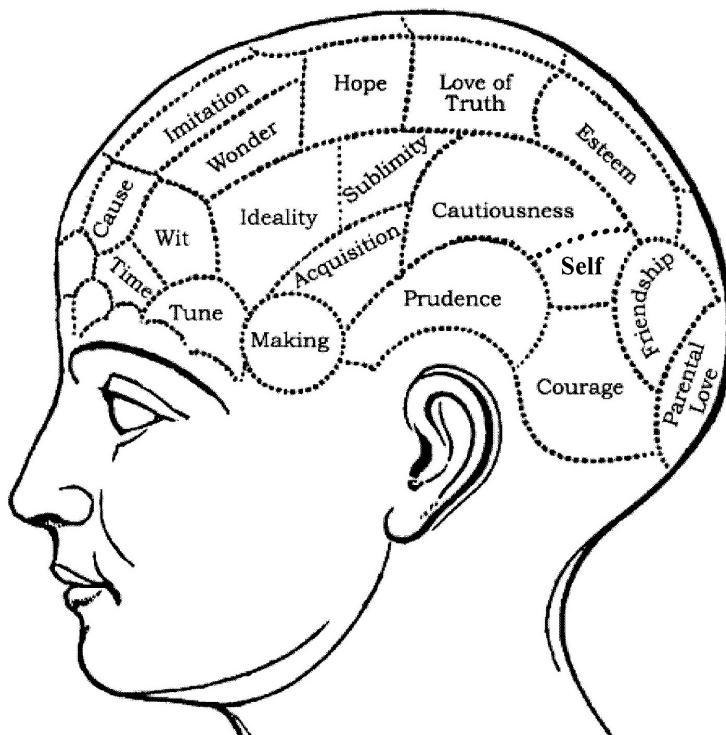
### SECTION A

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.



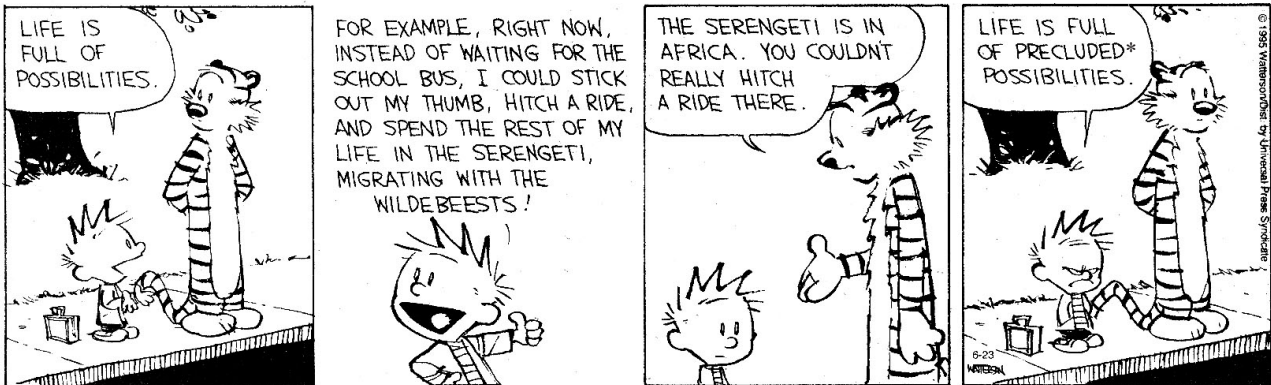
[Source: [www.thegeminiweb.com/babyboomer](http://www.thegeminiweb.com/babyboomer), June 2007]

- (a) What philosophical issue could be identified from this image? [3 marks]
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches that explore the issue you have identified in (a). [12 marks]
- (c) “Every person carries within himself or herself the entire human condition.” Critically discuss. [15 marks]

Or

2.

### CALVIN AND HOBBS



[Source: International Herald Tribune, *Calvin and Hobbes*, June 23rd 2005]

\* Synonyms for the word 'precluded' include: ruled out, excluded and prevented

- (a) What philosophical issue could be identified from this cartoon? [3 marks]
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical approaches that explore the issue you have identified in (a). [12 marks]
- (c) "My knowledge of myself as a unique person is, at every moment of my life, everything and yet nothing at all." 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. “There is a difference between having rights and having the possibility of exercising rights.” Discuss and critically evaluate.
4. “Political liberalism is primarily concerned with the freedom and autonomy of the individual and is uninterested in – or even antagonistic to – the larger community of individuals and society.” Critically assess this claim.

### **Optional Theme 2: Knowledge**

5. To what extent could scepticism be challenged?
6. What could constitute legitimate justification for knowledge? Explain and discuss.

### **Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture**

7. “Globalization creates a diversity of cultural values rather than a world culture.” Discuss and critically evaluate.
8. To what extent is it philosophically justifiable to consider one culture superior to another?

### **Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies**

9. Explain and discuss the response of at least one of the traditions (Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam) to the idea of non-violence and the values this view might reflect.
10. With reference to at least one of the philosophical traditions (Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam) evaluate philosophically the significance of the family as a foundation of society.

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

11. “In exerting mastery over the natural environment, the human species demonstrates a fundamental separation between itself and the world from which it comes.” Critically assess this claim.
12. To what extent does work define the human being?

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

13. To what extent does the expression of the artist’s feelings define a work of art?
14. On what basis can we make a judgment about the quality of a work of art? Explain and discuss.

**Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion**

15. Discuss and critically evaluate the meaning of hope in the religious experience.
16. Critically assess the view of the divine, which conceives God as a human ideal.

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

17. Critically assess the view that ethical judgements should be based on natural properties or nature.
  18. Explain and discuss the notion of duty in forming moral decisions.
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