



**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Friday 7 November 2008 (morning)

2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions.

In answering questions, candidates are expected to:

- present an argument in an organized way
- use clear, precise and appropriate language, demonstrating that they understand the author's specific terminology
- show an understanding of the specific demands of the question
- give detailed references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text
- provide relevant supportive material and examples where appropriate
- analyse the supporting material
- state a clear, personal response to the position expressed by the author.

Answer **two** questions.

1. Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

“The Tao is frequently referred to as the mother, the ancestor, the foster-mother of all creatures.”
Critically assess this claim.

2. Confucius: *The Analects*

Discuss and critically evaluate why a gentleman (*Chun tzu*) must have both learning (*hsue*) and thinking (*ssu*).

3. Plato: *The Republic*

Explain and discuss why the ruler of the ideal State is the person in whom political power and philosophy come into the same hands.

4. Aristotle: *The Nicomachean Ethics*

Explain and discuss the relation between practical reason (*phronesis*) and theoretical wisdom (*sophia*) in the development of happiness.

5. Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae*

Critically assess Aquinas's view about what our intellect knows in material things.

6. Descartes: *Meditations*

“It is through introspection that Descartes develops a process by which he can move from doubt to certainty.” Explain and discuss.

7. Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

Explain and discuss Locke's position regarding slavery.

8. Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Explain and discuss Hume's account concerning the origin and status of ideas.

9. **Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality and Social Contract***
Explain and discuss Rousseau’s perspective that to examine inequality amongst humans is to examine the development of humankind itself.

10. **Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals***
Critically assess the view that only actions done out of duty are moral.

11. **Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals***
Explain and discuss Nietzsche’s account of ascetic ideals.

12. **Mill: *Essay on Liberty***
Critically assess the claim that “If all mankind minus one were of one opinion and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person than he would be justified in silencing mankind.”

13. **Freud: *Civilisation and its Discontents and Outline of Psychoanalysis***
Explain and discuss Freud’s critique of religion.

14. **Buber: *I and Thou***
Critically assess Buber’s view of personal dialogue as the defining characteristic of the nature of human existence.

15. **Ortega y Gasset: *History as a System***
Explain and discuss the difference between ‘physical reason’ and ‘historical reason’.

16. **Wittgenstein: *The Blue and Brown Books***
Explain and discuss the relation between Wittgenstein’s investigation into language and his conception of philosophy.

17. **Arendt: *The Human Condition***
“For Arendt the quality of freedom in the world of appearances, which is the core requirement of politics, is to be found in the activity of *action* proper, the highest dimension of *Vita Activa*.”
Critically assess this view.

18. **Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity***
“de Beauvoir maintains that the individual is singular but not alone.” Critically assess this claim.

19. Rawls: *A Theory of Justice*

Explain and discuss the role liberty plays in guaranteeing fairness in Rawls' theory of justice.

20. Feyerabend: *Farewell to Reason*

Explain and discuss Feyerabend's idea that values affect not only the application of knowledge but are essential ingredients of knowledge itself.

21. Foucault: *The History of Sexuality*

Critically assess the view that power is everywhere.

22. Putnam: *Reason, Truth and History*

Explain and discuss Putnam's examination of reference.

23. Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

Explain and discuss Taylor's argument that individuals need to find authenticity through their dialogue with others.

24. Nussbaum: *Poetic Justice*

Explain and discuss the connections between emotion and rationality.
