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International Baccalaureate®
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**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Monday 16 November 2009 (morning)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer one question.

In your answer you are expected to:

- *present an argument in an organized way*
- *use clear, precise and appropriate language, demonstrating that you 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 supporting material and examples where appropriate*
- *analyse the supporting material*
- *state a clear, personal response to the position expressed by the author.*

*Answer **one** question. Each question is worth [30 marks].*

Bhagavad Gita

1. Critically evaluate the claim that the *Bhagavad Gita* provides answers to the questions of the meaning of life.
2. Critically evaluate the view that an action which leads to *mokṣa* (release or liberation of the *atman* from the cycle of rebirth) must be an action that is required and is performed without concern for its results.

Confucius: The Analects

3. Critically evaluate the view that *The Analects* do not profess to lay out a formula by which everyone should live. Rather, they provide an account of how one man cultivated his humanity, and how he lived a satisfying life, much to the admiration of those around him.
4. Explain and discuss Confucius's view of wisdom.

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching

5. Explain and discuss the importance of knowing when to act and when not to act.
6. To what extent is it possible to have knowledge of the Tao?

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV – IX

7. “The power to approach Beauty and behold it as itself is rare indeed.” Discuss and critically evaluate.
8. “When the poor rule, the result is democracy.” Discuss and critically evaluate.

René Descartes: *Meditations*

9. Explain and discuss Descartes’s arguments for the existence of matter.
10. Explain and discuss Descartes’s argument for the distinction between mind and body.

John Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

11. Critically evaluate Locke’s view that a man earns ownership over a resource when he combines his labour with it.
12. Explain and discuss the role of consent in Locke’s view of the social contract.

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

13. Explain and discuss Mill’s ideas about the development of the individual.
14. Critically evaluate the view that Mill sees a danger for liberty in the way society works.

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

15. Critically evaluate the claim that science lacks passion and is another form of the ascetic ideal.
16. Critically evaluate the claim that the active, aggressive, arrogant man is still a hundred steps closer to justice than the reactive man.

Bertrand Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*

17. “Granted that we are certain of our own sense-data, have we any reason for regarding them as signs of the existence of something else, which we can call the physical object?” Discuss and critically evaluate.
18. “All our conduct is based upon associations which have worked in the past, and which we therefore regard as likely to work in the future; and this likelihood is dependent for its validity upon the inductive principle.” Discuss and critically evaluate.

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*

19. Explain and discuss Arendt’s view of politics.
20. Explain and discuss the situation of the *vita activa* in the modern age.

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

21. “This privilege, which man alone possesses, of being a sovereign and unique subject amidst a universe of objects, is what he shares with all his fellow-men.” Discuss and critically evaluate.
22. Explain and discuss the role freedom plays in ethics.

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

23. Explain and discuss the need to live an authentic life.
 24. Critically evaluate the claim that personal identity is acute self-consciousness, developed by a dialogic interaction with others.
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