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International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Friday 19 November 2010 (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. Explain and discuss Krishna's yogic attitude.
2. Explain and discuss the notion of *Brahman*.

Confucius: *The Analects*

3. "The relationship between *jen* (goodness, humaneness, benevolence) and *li* (rites) is central to understanding the ethical perspectives of *The Analects*." Discuss and critically evaluate.
4. Explain and discuss why *hsiao* (filial piety), while linked to other virtues, has priority in the order of human relationships.

Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

5. To what extent can the *Tao* be applied to the "art of government"?
6. Explain and discuss the idea of *sheng ren* (the man of calling).

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

7. Explain and discuss Plato’s simile of the divided line.
8. Critically evaluate the qualities of the philosopher and what qualifies the philosopher to rule in the state.

René Descartes: *Meditations*

9. Explain and discuss the idea that we cannot conceive of the body except as being divisible; while we cannot conceive of the mind except as being indivisible.
10. Critically evaluate the idea that all which we clearly and distinctly perceive (apprehend) is true.

John Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

11. Explain and discuss the distinction between conjugal society (family) and political society (state).
12. Critically evaluate Locke’s view of the formation of government.

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

13. To what extent should there be a balance between the liberty of the individual and the state?
14. Critically evaluate the claim that the expression of a contrary opinion is a vital component of a democratic society.

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

15. “Guilt and bad conscience were not originally concerned with our wrongdoing, but modern society has changed their meanings.” Discuss and critically evaluate.
16. Explain and discuss the meaning of the ascetic ideal.

Bertrand Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*

17. All our knowledge, both knowledge of things and knowledge of truths, rests upon acquaintance as its foundation. Discuss and critically evaluate.
18. Explain and discuss what the value of philosophy is and why it ought to be studied.

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*

19. Critically evaluate the claim that authentic political action is performed by a plurality of actors in a defined public space.
20. Critically evaluate the claim that man is a political animal and not simply a private or social animal.

Simone De Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

21. Critically evaluate the claim that freedom with responsibility is the source of morality.
22. Critically evaluate the claim, “Men of today seem to feel more acutely than ever the paradox of their condition. They know themselves to be the supreme end to which all action should be subordinated, but the exigencies of action force them to treat one another as instruments or obstacles, as means.”

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

23. Explain and discuss the place of dialogue in the quest for authenticity.
 24. Explain and discuss the challenges for the individual in modern society.
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