



88145601



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 1**

Thursday 6 November 2014 (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.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is *[90 marks]*.

*In your answers you are expected to:*

- *argue in an organized way using clear, precise language, which is appropriate to philosophy*
- *demonstrate knowledge and understanding of appropriate philosophical issues*
- *analyse, develop and critically evaluate relevant ideas and arguments*
- *present appropriate examples providing support for your overall argument*
- *identify and analyse counter-arguments*
- *provide relevant supporting material, illustrations and/or examples*
- *offer a clear and philosophically relevant personal response to the examination question.*

## SECTION A

*Answer **one** question from this section. Each question in this section is worth [30 marks].*

### **Core Theme: What is a human being?**

1. Read the following passage and develop your response as indicated below.

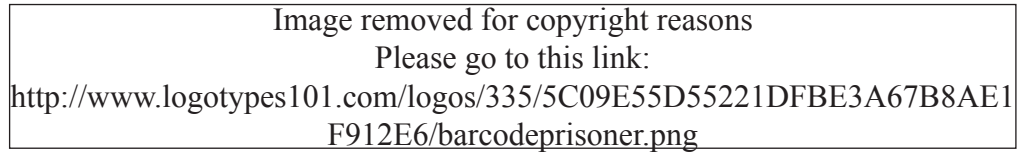
In the great majority of animals there are traces of psychical qualities which are more markedly differentiated in the case of human beings. For just as we pointed out resemblances in the physical organs, so in a number of animals we observe gentleness or fierceness, mildness or cross temper, courage or timidity, fear or confidence, high spirit or low cunning, and, with regard to intelligence, something equivalent to sagacity. Some of these qualities in man, as compared with the corresponding qualities in animals, differ only quantitatively: that is to say, a man has more of this quality, and an animal has more of some other; other qualities in man are represented by analogous qualities: for instance, just as in man we find knowledge, wisdom, and sagacity, so in certain animals there exists some other natural capacity akin to these.

[Source: quoted by H P Kainz, (2007), in *The Philosophy of Human Nature*, Illinois: Open Court, page 1.  
Used with permission  
Original quote Aristotle, “History of Animals”]

*Write a response (of approximately 800 words) in which you:*

- identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue in this passage that addresses the question, “what is a human being?”
- investigate **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified
- explain and evaluate the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified.

2. Look at the following picture and develop your response as indicated below.



*Write a response (of approximately 800 words) in which you:*

- identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue in this image that addresses the question, “what is a human being?”
- investigate **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified
- explain and evaluate the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified.

## 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: Grounds of epistemology**

3. Evaluate the importance, in the process of gaining knowledge, of tracing the origins of ideas and concepts to experience.
4. Explain and discuss the problems faced in justifying beliefs as knowledge.

### **Optional Theme 2: Theories and problems of ethics**

5. Evaluate the claim that “morality is a sickness peculiar to humans”.
6. Evaluate the claim that humans have moral duties beyond those they have towards other humans.

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

7. “Conceptions of the divine should not be reduced to only one notion of a higher being.” Discuss and evaluate.
8. “Attitudes such as belief, trust and hope allow various kinds of epistemic evaluation; they can be (or fail to be) rational, reasonable, reliably formed, warranted, and the like.” Discuss and evaluate.

### **Optional Theme 4: Philosophy of art**

9. Evaluate the claim that any plausible conception of the value of art will have to be instrumentalist, non-essentialist, and recognize that there is no single value shared by all works of art.
10. Examine the significance of our emotional responses for our understanding, appreciation and evaluation of works of art.

**Optional Theme 5: Political philosophy**

11. Explain and discuss the role consent can play as a basis of political obligation.
12. Evaluate the view that we possess human rights simply by virtue of being human.

**Optional Theme 6: Non-Western traditions and perspectives**

13. With reference to at least one non-Western tradition that you have studied, evaluate philosophically the relation between appearance and reality.
14. With reference to at least one non-Western tradition that you have studied, evaluate philosophically the nature and purpose of human life.

**Optional Theme 7: Contemporary social issues**

15. Evaluate the claim that, by taking into account a variety of expressions of justice (such as multicultural, multi-ethnic, global), social justice can be relevant in a variety of social contexts.
16. Evaluate the claim that gender equality is just, is good for human society and will facilitate new ways of thinking and living together.

**Optional Theme 8: People, nations and cultures**

17. Evaluate the claim that even though a state is entitled to design and enforce a selective immigration policy, it is not entitled to restrict the entry of political refugees.
  18. Evaluate the claim that the moral duty we have to aid foreigners who are starving or undergoing serious suffering has precedence over our obligations to our fellow citizens.
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