

Philosophy
Higher level
Paper 1

Wednesday 6 May 2015 (afternoon)

2 hours 30 minutes

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.

It is a common assumption that work is a natural feature of the human condition, but it is plain lunacy to say that average US\$10 to US\$20 a week workers are today a *lower* type than an 18th century labourer or a labourer or peasant of any exclusively agricultural community now or in the past. It just is not true. It is so silly to cry out about the civilizing effects of work in the fields and farmyards, as against the work done in a train or car factory. Work is a nuisance. We work because we have to, and all work is done to provide us with leisure and the means of spending that leisure as enjoyably as possible.

[Source: adapted from J Beevers, (1989) *World Without Faith*,
in G Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, page 178]

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.



[Source: *National Geographic* (January 2012)
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Write a response (of approximately 800 words) in which you:

- identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue in this picture 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.

Turn over

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 claim that a belief is only justified if it is part of a coherent system of beliefs.
4. Evaluate the claim that we derive all knowledge from experience.

Optional theme 2: Theories and problems of ethics

5. Explain and discuss how we might justify the criteria which ethical principles should satisfy.
6. “Personal autonomy forms the basis of a general right to act on one’s own judgment.” Discuss and evaluate.

Optional theme 3: Philosophy of religion

7. Evaluate the claims about experience in arguments for the existence of God, or the gods.
8. Discuss and evaluate the anthropocentric (human-centred) basis of language used when talking about the concept of God, or the gods.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy of art

9. Evaluate the role of imagination in an aesthetic understanding of an object.
10. Evaluate the claim that all judgments of beauty depend on non-aesthetic features.

Optional theme 5: Political philosophy

11. Explain and discuss the differences between positive and negative liberty and their impact on individuals and society.
12. With reference to the social contract theories you have studied, explain and discuss the role played by one or more of their key element/s, for example, fear, liberty, safety, property and so on.

Optional theme 6: Non-Western traditions and perspectives

13. Evaluate the role of the self in the ethical imperatives and attitudes of one or more of the non-Western traditions and perspectives you have studied.
14. With reference to one or more of the non-Western traditions you have studied, evaluate the pressure on the traditions brought by life in “the modern age”.

Optional theme 7: Contemporary social issues

15. Evaluate the claim that in present societies, citizenship depends on free media and open access to information.
16. “Toleration is not the opposite of intolerance, but the counterfeit of it. Both are despotisms.” Discuss and evaluate this claim with reference to a multicultural environment.

Optional theme 8: People, nations and cultures

17. “The *vis inertiae* (power of inertia) of habit is tremendous, and when it is reinforced by a philosophy which also is embodied in institutions, it is so great.” Discuss and evaluate this claim with reference to the role played by tradition in societies.
 18. Evaluate the claim that all peoples have the right to self-determination and to express their identities in a multicultural and multi-ethnic world.
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