

**Philosophy  
Higher level  
Paper 1**

Monday 16 May 2016 (morning)

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 **[75 marks]**.

## Section A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

### Core theme: What is a human being?

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

The UN Millennium Charter is an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. It supports all efforts to uphold: the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

[Source: adapted from United Nations Millennium Declaration:  
[www.un.org](http://www.un.org), accessed 16 March 2015]

With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

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



[Source: © NASA]

With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

## Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section, each chosen from a different optional theme. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

### Optional theme 1: Aesthetics

3. Evaluate the claim that art can reveal truth.
4. Evaluate the claim that the artist should be free of social restrictions.

### Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Explain and discuss the role played by social agreement and sharing in making opinion and belief tools of objective knowledge.
6. “Knowledge is power.” Discuss and evaluate Bacon’s claim.

### Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. To what extent do you agree with the claim that ethics is more about self-interest than about the interests of others?
8. Evaluate the claim that rationality offers a justifiable foundation for moral judgments.

### Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. “If triangles were to make gods for themselves, they would give them three sides.” Discuss and evaluate Montesquieu’s claim with reference to a modern, multicultural world.
10. Explain and discuss the claim that equality before the law is different from equality of rights.

**Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion**

11. Evaluate the claim that it is not possible to live harmoniously in multicultural and multi-faith societies and still insist the particular truths and practices of your religion are the only correct ones.
12. Evaluate the claim that as God or gods is/are beyond human understanding, then any attempt to determine the characteristics of God(s) is a self-defeating exercise.

**Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science**

13. Science depends on observation in order to draw conclusions. Evaluate the implications of this claim.
14. To what extent can science contribute to understanding the mind?

**Optional theme 7: Political philosophy**

15. Evaluate the claim that universal human rights can only exist effectively within a democratic political system.
  16. Discuss and evaluate whether the state has an obligation to enact laws and support institutions that make individuals better people.
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