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**Philosophy
Higher level
Paper 1**

Friday 6 November 2020 (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 **[75 marks]**.

Section A

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

Core theme: Being human

1. Look at the following image and its accompanying quotation and develop your response as indicated below.



“A student’s learning and hard work is a defining moment in their life.”

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 image and develop your response as indicated below.



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. To what extent can art be defined?
4. Evaluate the claim that to appreciate art properly it is “form” that is important.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Evaluate the claim that “the limits of my language mean the limits of my world”.
6. Evaluate the claim that technology as “the capacity to own, buy and sell knowledge, has contributed to the development of the new, knowledge-based societies”.

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. Evaluate the view that a moral act is one that originates from a sense of duty.
8. Evaluate the claim that all morality is relative.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. Evaluate the claim that “everyone needs boundaries and a space they can call their own, therefore distinct societies and cultures need to be maintained”.
10. Evaluate the claim that technological advancements enhance human progress.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion

11. Evaluate the claim that there is a God because something exists rather than nothing.
12. To what extent can religious belief be challenged by psychological considerations?

Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science

13. Explain and discuss the impact of modern scientific research (such as biology, cognitive science, neuroscience and artificial intelligence) on the understanding of the self.
14. Evaluate the claim that whereas epistemology is focused on the study of knowledge, the philosophy of science is concerned with the practices of science.

Optional theme 7: Political philosophy

15. Evaluate the claim that the purpose of government is the preservation of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
 16. Explain and discuss the merits of “power to the people” as an idea in politics.
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References:

1. © International Baccalaureate Organization 2020. Almost 150,000 IB graduates celebrate 2016 exam results, [blog] 5 July 2016. Available at:
<https://www.ibo.org/news/news-list/almost-150000-ib-graduates-celebrate-2016-exam-results/>.
2. Graphic: © International Baccalaureate Organization 2020.

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