



88135602



International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Thursday 7 November 2013 (morning)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer one question.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is *[30 marks]*.

In your answer you are expected to:

- *argue in an organized way using clear, precise language, which is appropriate to philosophy, and demonstrate an understanding of the author’s specific terminology*
- *show an understanding of the specific demands of the question*
- *give references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text*
- *present appropriate examples providing support for your overall argument*
- *identify and analyse counter-arguments*
- *provide relevant supporting material, illustrations and/or examples*
- *develop a critical evaluation of the ideas and arguments of the text*
- *offer a clear and philosophically relevant personal response to the position expressed by the author.*

Answer **one** question. Each question is worth [30 marks].

Bhagavad Gita

1. Evaluate the claim that the three *gunas* (qualities, attributes or characteristics) function as the fundamental operating principles of all beings.
2. Evaluate the view that the *Bhagavad Gita* claims that focused, single-minded devotion (*Bhakti Yoga*) to *Vasudeva-Krishna* is the surest path to self-realization and liberation.

Confucius: The Analects

3. Evaluate the claim that *The Analects* offers an ethical view of deep significance for the present.
4. Evaluate Confucius’s social philosophy.

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching

5. Evaluate Lao Tzu’s claim that “The world is ruled by letting things take their course. It cannot be ruled by interfering”.
6. Explain and discuss the Taoist view that the world is in a constant state of flux.

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

7. Evaluate Plato’s claim that for the ideal state to be formed, it is necessary to wipe the slate clean of human society and human habits.
8. Evaluate the nature, purpose and value of Plato’s educational programme.

René Descartes: *Meditations*

9. Evaluate the claim that methodological doubt relieves the mind of reliance on the senses so as to attain indubitable truths.
10. Evaluate the claim that Descartes’s example of the piece of wax demonstrates that what we can know with certainty are those things we know by our judgment, thinking and understanding of them in our minds.

John Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

11. Evaluate the claim that “Our contemporary language of individualist politics is grounded in a tradition which stretches back to Locke’s vision of man and society”.
12. Explain and discuss Locke’s conception of natural law.

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

13. Evaluate Mill’s view that a true society is one that allows the individual freedom of thought and discussion.
14. Evaluate the claim that the Harm Principle must be applied to individuals before the principle of utility in society may be transgressed.

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

15. Evaluate Nietzsche’s idea of bad conscience.
16. Evaluate Nietzsche’s claim that the will to truth requires a genealogical analysis.

Bertrand Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*

17. Evaluate Russell’s claim that “Every proposition which we can understand must be composed wholly of constituents with which we are acquainted”.
18. Evaluate the capacity of Russell’s theory of descriptions to account for claims about things that do not exist (for example, “Shangri-La has a perfect climate” – where Shangri-La is understood to be a fictional kingdom).

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*

19. Evaluate Arendt’s contention that the Western philosophical tradition from Plato onwards has subordinated the world of human action (the *vita activa*) to the life of contemplation (the *vita contemplativa*) and its concern with essences and the eternal.
20. Evaluate Arendt’s conception of modernity.

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

21. Evaluate the claim that “Life in itself is neither good nor evil. It is the place of good and evil, according to what you make it”.
22. Explain and discuss de Beauvoir’s idea that to will freedom and to will to disclose being are one and the same choice.

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

23. Evaluate Taylor’s view that authenticity requires recognition of, and openness to, the importance of respect for others and the shared natural world.
24. Evaluate Taylor’s claim that the fragmentation of contemporary social life threatens democratic government.