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International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

**PHILOSOPHY
STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Wednesday 5 May 2010 (morning)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer one question.

In your answer you are expected to:

- present an argument in an organized way
- use clear, precise and appropriate language, demonstrating that you understand the author's specific terminology
- show an understanding of the specific demands of the question
- give detailed references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text
- provide relevant supporting material and examples where appropriate
- analyse the supporting material
- state a clear, personal response to the position expressed by the author.

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

Bhagavad Gita

1. Explain and discuss the issues of attachment to and detachment from the external world in the *Bhagavad Gita*.
2. Explain and discuss the role that duty plays in the ethical teachings of the *Bhagavad Gita*.

Confucius: The Analects

3. Explain and discuss the ways of achieving harmony both in the individual and society.
4. Critically evaluate the claim that a ruler should govern and not kill.

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching

5. Critically evaluate the idea that the sage should follow the highest excellence of water, because the excellence of water, which benefits all things and occupies without striving, is near to the *Tao*.
6. Lao Tzu says, "Governing a great state is like cooking small fish". Explain and discuss the social and political significance of the *Tao Te Ching* teachings.

Plato: The Republic, Books IV – IX

7. Explain and discuss the role of education in Plato's Ideal State.
8. Explain and discuss the relationship between knowledge and the Good.

René Descartes: *Meditations*

9. Explain and discuss the sources and nature of ideas.
10. Explain and discuss the relationship between mind and body.

John Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

11. Critically evaluate the claim that executive power should be limited.
12. Critically evaluate the claim that property is more important than life.

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

13. Critically evaluate Mill's claim that over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign.
14. Mill states, "If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind". Discuss and critically evaluate.

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

15. Explain and discuss the concept of the ascetic ideal and its relationship with truth.
16. Explain and discuss the role of *ressentiment* in morality.

Bertrand Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*

17. Explain and discuss the theory of sense-data.
18. Explain and discuss why the principle of induction cannot be proved by experience.

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*

19. Critically evaluate the justification for the division of human activities into labour, work and action.
20. Explain and discuss the role of *vita activa* in improving humanity.

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

21. Explain and discuss de Beauvoir's idea that existentialism defines itself as a philosophy of ambiguity.
22. Critically evaluate de Beauvoir's claim that to act alone, or without concern for others, is not to be free.

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

23. Taylor states, "The agent seeking significance in life, trying to define him – or herself – meaningfully, has to exist in a horizon of important questions". Discuss and critically evaluate.
 24. Explain and discuss the parallels between art, the concept of the self, and subjectivism in Taylor's argument on authenticity.
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