

Philosophy
Higher level and standard level
Paper 2

Thursday 7 May 2015 (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 importance of detachment (or non-attachment) to the individual.
2. Discuss and evaluate the view of war that is encouraged by the story of Arjuna.

Confucius: *The Analects*

3. Explain and evaluate the relationship between self-discipline and care for others.
4. Evaluate the role of education in the development of *Chun Tzu* (the gentleman).

Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

5. Explain and discuss with reference to *wu wei* the claim that a “good runner/traveller” (wanderer) leaves no tracks.
6. To what extent are the qualities of the “man of calling” (the sage, *sheng ren*) desirable?

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

7. Explain and discuss the idea that the Form of the Good is the goal of dialectic.
8. Explain and discuss Plato’s conception of the soul.

René Descartes: *Meditations*

9. Explain and discuss Descartes's view of the nature of the mind.
10. Evaluate the claim that knowledge of God plays a central role in the epistemological argument of the *Meditations*.

John Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

11. Explain and discuss the advantages for human society of moving from a state of nature into civil society.
12. Explain and discuss the role that the concept of property plays in the *Treatise*.

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

13. Evaluate the claim that cultivation of individuality is essential for progress.
14. Evaluate the Harm Principle as a limitation on actions and speech that is necessary for a happy life.

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

15. Evaluate Nietzsche's idea of punishment and its origin.
16. Evaluate Nietzsche's claim that the slave revolt in morality is linked to *ressentiment*.

Bertrand Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*

17. "The senses seem not to give us the truth about the table itself, but only about the appearance of the table." Discuss and evaluate Russell's claim concerning reality, appearance, and what he calls physical objects.
18. Evaluate Russell's idea of truth and falsehood and the "requisites which any theory must fulfil".

Turn over

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*

19. Evaluate Arendt's claim that "nobody is the author or producer of their own life story".
20. Evaluate the role of the *polis* in Arendt's understanding of the human condition.

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

21. "If God is dead everything is permitted" is an incorrect assumption, as humans must face responsibility alone." Discuss and evaluate de Beauvoir's claim.
22. Explain and discuss the extent to which an individual is defined by their relationship to the world and to others.

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

23. Evaluate the ways in which instrumental reason is connected to our disenchantment with the world.
 24. Explain and discuss the claim that reason can be applied in opposition to the modern tendency towards relativism and neutrality.
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