

Philosophy
Higher level
Paper 1

Wednesday 17 May 2017 (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. Read the following passage and develop your response as indicated below.

“Our sense of the full range of human nature, [...] has been steadily reduced. No matter how rewarding it might be, anything wild and dangerous gets pulled – though as we shall see, some of the weeds growing in us have roots reaching deep into our shared past. Pull them if you want, but they will just keep coming back again and again.”

[Source: adapted from Cacilda Jetha, *Sex at Dawn: The Prehistoric Origins of Modern Sexuality*. Published by HarperTorch.]

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.



[Source: <https://kaurthoughts.files.wordpress.com>, accessed 20 May 2016]

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.

Turn over

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 Dewey’s claim that art is the “beauty parlour (salon) of civilization” – the space where civilization portrays itself.
4. Evaluate the claim that “taste is the capacity for judging something to be beautiful on the basis of an entirely ‘disinterested’ delight”.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Evaluate the claim that out of the common three theories of truth (coherence, correspondence and pragmatism) the coherence theory is the most justifiable.
6. To what extent does the right to access knowledge benefit people?

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. Evaluate the claim that the aim of all ethical principles is to cultivate our sympathy.
8. Evaluate the claim that a good person is a person of good character.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. With reference to one or more examples of the groups of people that can be marginalized in society, explain and discuss the philosophical issues that can arise from addressing inequality.
10. Evaluate the claim that “[the idea of] natural rights is simple nonsense”.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion

11. Explain and discuss the conceptual issues that arise from attributing omnipotence to a Supreme Being.
12. Explain and discuss the problems that arise from verifying claims made using religious language.

Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science

13. Explain and discuss the role of induction in the development of scientific knowledge.
14. Evaluate the claim that scientific progress is limited by the imagination of the scientist.

Optional theme 7: Political philosophy

15. Evaluate the view that justice gives everyone the best chance of achieving their own good that they can reasonably expect, in a setting where others are simultaneously trying to achieve their own different good.
 16. Explain and discuss the idea that human rights are inalienable and universal.
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