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Philosophy
Higher level
Paper 1

Wednesday 8 May 2019 (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 excerpt and develop your response as indicated below.

The human condition is such that pain and effort are not just symptoms which can be removed without changing life itself; they are the modes in which life itself, together with the necessity to which it is bound, makes itself felt. For mortals, the “easy life of the gods” would be a lifeless life.

[Source: republished with permission of University of Chicago Press from *The Human Condition* by H. Arendt (1998); permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.]

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. Read the following text and develop your response as indicated below.

A conference presentation on the subject of human identity by a laboratory included references to work on genetic sampling. Areas for development identified included:

- Genetic sampling for commercial tests
- Producing standard reference tests for identifying genetic information
- Training and laboratory studies
- Developing new tests to identify genetic code

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. Explain and discuss the role of emotions in art.
4. Explain and discuss what kinds of entities in the world are works of art.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. To what extent do you agree with the claim that *a priori* knowledge is totally independent of experience?
6. Evaluate whether there is a difference between having knowledge about X compared to having a true belief about X.

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. To what extent do you agree with the claim that wherever the adjective “good” (or “bad”) is linked with an object it means that this object is useful (or harmful)?
8. Evaluate, with reference to an area of applied ethics that you have studied, the claim that responsibility is the fundamental imperative in modern civilization.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. Evaluate the claim that social media leads to cultural impoverishment (for example, a more limited cultural diversity).
10. Evaluate, in relation to multiculturalism, the claim that democracy encourages a “tyranny of the majority”.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion

11. To what extent does suffering disprove the existence of God?
12. Evaluate the claim that the content of religious experience is incommunicable.

Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science

13. Evaluate the nature of scientific explanations.
14. To what extent is science guided by societal pressures and values?

Optional theme 7: Political philosophy

15. To what extent do you agree with the claim that in modern democratic states the dual aims of freedom and equality cannot be sustained?
 16. To what extent should a citizen of a state be held accountable under international law?
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