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Philosophy
Higher level and standard level
Paper 2

Monday 9 November 2020 (morning)

1 hour

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer both parts of one question. Candidates are advised to allocate their time accordingly. Each part will be distinctly assessed.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

Answer **both parts** (a) and (b) of **one** question. Each question is worth [25 marks].

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*, Vol. 1 part 1, Vol. 2 part 1 and Vol. 2 part 4

1. (a) Explain why private property is the “great historical defeat of the female sex”. [10]
(b) Evaluate why private property is the “great historical defeat of the female sex”. [15]
2. (a)

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(b)

René Descartes: *Meditations*

3. (a) Explain Descartes’s view that the two questions respecting God and the Soul ought to be determined by the help of philosophy rather than of theology. [10]
(b) Evaluate Descartes’s view that the two questions respecting God and the Soul ought to be determined by the help of philosophy rather than of theology. [15]
4. (a) Explain the role of imagination in relation to the distinction between mind and body. [10]
(b) Evaluate the role of imagination in relation to the distinction between mind and body. [15]

David Hume: *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

5. (a) Explain the role of skepticism in *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. [10]
(b) Evaluate the role of skepticism in *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. [15]
6. (a) Explain how suffering poses a problem for an anthropomorphic God. [10]
(b) Evaluate how suffering poses a problem for an anthropomorphic God. [15]

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

7. (a) Explain Mill’s claim that “the only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way”. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Mill’s claim that “the only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way”. [15]
8. (a) Explain Mill’s view that “truth, in the great practical concern of life, is a question of the reconciling and the combining of opposites”. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Mill’s view that “truth, in the great practical concern of life, is a question of the reconciling and the combining of opposites”. [15]

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

9. (a) Explain Nietzsche’s account of the role of debt in morality. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Nietzsche’s account of the role of debt in morality. [15]
10. (a) Explain the relationship between slave morality and Judeo-Christian ideals. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the relationship between slave morality and Judeo-Christian ideals. [15]

Martha Nussbaum: *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*

11. (a) Explain Nussbaum’s application of the *capabilities approach* to animals. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Nussbaum’s application of the *capabilities approach* to animals. [15]
12. (a) Explain how Nussbaum’s *capabilities approach* allows humans to fully function as individuals. [10]
- (b) Evaluate whether Nussbaum’s *capabilities approach* allows humans to fully function as individuals. [15]

Turn over

Ortega y Gasset: *The Origins of Philosophy*

13. (a) Explain Ortega’s idea of “historical reason”. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ortega’s idea of “historical reason”. [15]
14. (a) Explain Ortega’s view of the role of the past in shaping the idea of philosophy. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ortega’s view of the role of the past in shaping the idea of philosophy. [15]

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

15. (a) Explain the claim that “preventing excessive wealth and poverty among the citizens is fundamental to Plato’s idea of a just state”. [10]
(b) Evaluate the issues of excessive wealth and poverty within Plato’s just state. [15]
16. (a) Explain Plato’s claim that “the sun is not sight, but it is the cause of sight and it can be seen by sight”. [10]
(b) Evaluate Plato’s claim that “the sun is not sight, but it is the cause of sight and it can be seen by sight”. [15]

Peter Singer: *The Life You Can Save*

17. (a) Explain Singer’s claim that “we favour our families and communities [...] rather than [...] the lives of the poor beyond these boundaries”. [10]
(b) Evaluate Singer’s claim that “we favour our families and communities [...] rather than [...] the lives of the poor beyond these boundaries”. [15]
18. (a) Explain Singer’s claim that giving at reasonable levels reinforces “the link between giving and happiness”. [10]
(b) Evaluate Singer’s claim that giving at reasonable levels reinforces “the link between giving and happiness”. [15]

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

19. (a)

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(b)

20. (a) Explain Taylor’s assessment of the view that everybody has their own values. [10]

(b) Evaluate Taylor’s assessment of the view that everybody has their own values. [15]

Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

21. (a) Explain Lao Tzu’s idea that in the whole world there is nothing softer than water. [10]

(b) Evaluate Lao Tzu’s idea that in the whole world there is nothing softer than water. [15]

22. (a) Explain Lao Tzu’s idea that humans do not need laws and government direction to live a harmonious life. [10]

(b) Evaluate Lao Tzu’s idea that humans do not need laws and government direction to live a harmonious life. [15]

Zhuangzi: *Zhuangzi*

23. (a) Explain Zhuangzi’s idea that if there is no “other” then there can be no “I”. [10]

(b) Evaluate Zhuangzi’s idea that if there is no “other” then there can be no “I”. [15]

24. (a) Explain Zhuangzi’s claim that life and death have the certainty of morning and night. [10]

(b) Evaluate Zhuangzi’s claim that life and death have the certainty of morning and night. [15]

References:

17–18. From Peter Singer, *The Life You Can Save*, © and available for free download from www.thelifeyoucansave.org.