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Philosophy
Standard level
Paper 1

Friday 13 May 2022 (afternoon)

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 **[25 marks]**.

Answer **one** question. Each question is worth [25 marks].

Core theme: Being human

1. Read the following excerpt from an interview and develop your response as indicated below.

[The interviewer has just mentioned a new test that enabled a male patient in a vegetative state* to register an ability to show intention, by responding to a particular question during a brain scan.]

Interviewer:

It must have been so difficult knowing that this man was conscious. Do you think knowing makes life better or worse, both for him and the family?

Neuroscientist:

I have interviewed many, many families in this situation over the years. And in many ways, this seems like a fate worse than death to be trapped in your body like this. But, almost always, people seem to find some comfort in finding a part of that person is still there that they thought was gone. And certainly, most families treat this as welcome news.

* vegetative state: when a person is awake but shows no sign of awareness because they are unable to respond to external stimuli in any meaningful way

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.



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.

References:

1. BBC Radio 4, 2019. Adrian Owen on scanning for awareness in the injured brain, The Life Scientific. [radio] 22 October 2019. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0009ksc> [Accessed 26 May 2020].