



**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 2**

Tuesday 17 May 2005 (morning)

2 hours

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each on a different prescribed text.

*In answering questions, candidates are expected to:*

- *present an argument in an organized way*
- *use clear, precise and appropriate language, demonstrating that they understand the author's specific terminology*
- *show an understanding of the specific demands of the question*
- *give detailed references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text*
- *provide relevant supportive material and examples where appropriate*
- *analyse the supporting material*
- *state a clear, personal response to the position expressed by the author.*

*Answer two questions, each on a different prescribed text.*

**1. Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching***

Explain and evaluate the idea that nature is not kind because it treats all things impartially and that the sage is not kind because he treats all people impartially.

**2. Confucius: *The Analects***

Explain and analyse what Confucius means when he says that Man can enlarge the Way, but the Way cannot enlarge Man.

**3. Plato: *The Republic***

Explain Plato's programme of study for a philosopher and assess his reasons for his emphasis on mathematics.

**4. Aristotle: *The Nicomachean Ethics***

Critically evaluate Aristotle's claim that happiness is the ultimate objective of man.

**5. Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae***

Explain and evaluate Aquinas' conception of man as a being composed of matter and form and its implications for human life.

**6. Descartes: *Meditations***

Explain and discuss the merit of Descartes' argument of "*Cogito, ergo sum*".

**7. Locke: *Second Treatise on Government***

Explain and critically discuss how Locke understands the concept of right.

8. **Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding***  
How does Hume argue against the idea that everything is caused by something? Critically evaluate his argument.
  
9. **Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality and Social Contract***  
How does Rousseau justify his idea of ‘forcing people to be free’? Do you agree with him? Explain your answer.
  
10. **Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals***  
Why is it important for common human reason to understand that duty is the necessity of an action from the pure respect for law? Explain and evaluate.
  
11. **Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals***  
Explain and assess Nietzsche’s reasons for rejecting science as an alternative to the ascetic ideal.
  
12. **Mill: *Essay on Liberty***  
Discuss the implications of Mill’s categorization of acts into one of two groups either “self regarding acts” or “other regarding acts”.
  
13. **Freud: *Civilisation and its Discontents and Outline of Psychoanalysis***  
Evaluate Freud’s account of the evolution of civilization as a struggle between *Eros* and *Thanatos*.
  
14. **Buber: *I and Thou***  
Discuss Buber’s distinction between I-Thou relationships and I-It relationships and their impact upon everyday human interactions.
  
15. **Ortega y Gasset: *History as a System***  
Could history be understood as a system? Explain and evaluate this in the context of Ortega y Gasset’s ideas.
  
16. **Wittgenstein: *The Blue and Brown Books***  
“There is a temptation for me to say that only my own experience is real: ‘I know that I see, hear, feel pains, etc., but not that anyone else does. I can’t know this, because I am I and they are they.’ ”  
Explain and evaluate Wittgenstein’s discussion on private ownership of experience.

**17. Arendt: *The Human Condition***

Explain and evaluate Arendt's claim that political philosophers have often viewed action with suspicion.

**18. Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity***

Explain and critically evaluate the relevance of de Beauvoir's ethics of ambiguity to the human condition.

**19. Rawls: *A Theory of Justice***

"One conception of justice is more reasonable than another, or justifiable with respect to it, if rational persons in the initial situation would choose its principle over those of the other for the role of justice." Evaluate to what extent Rawls' conception of the original position is based on rationality.

**20. Feyerabend: *Farewell to Reason***

Explain why Feyerabend claims Protagoras' views on truth and reality are useful to democratic relativism. Is Feyerabend's claim justified?

**21. Foucault: *The History of Sexuality***

Discuss and evaluate the relationship between sexuality and discourse.

**22. Putnam: *Reason, Truth and History***

Explain and evaluate Putnam's claim that a person with no values would have no facts either.

**23. Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity***

"Taylor's ideas of 'self-centred narcissism' and 'horizons of significance' flatten and distort the idea of authenticity." Critically discuss and evaluate.

**24. Nussbaum: *Poetic Justice***

Are poets good judges? Explain and evaluate Nussbaum's idea of the "literary judge".

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