

**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Wednesday 8 May 2002 (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 on a different Optional Theme.

SECTION A

Answer one question from this section.

Core Theme: What is a “human” being?

Either:

1.

A myth of the Incas tells that gods created man three times. The first time they made him of mud. But mud men were so silly and so clumsy that the angry gods destroyed them. After that, they made new men of wood. But this attempt failed too, because wood men were so coarse and so bad, that the gods had to destroy them. However, some wood men escaped from destruction and ran away to the woods; there they made the monkey people. Third time gods made a man of mass. Mass men were intelligent and astute, but crafty and cheating. Although men were imperfect, the gods let them live, as they were tired. The gods only darkened their brains, in order to make them inclined towards error, so they could not know the final secrets of this world.

- (a) What does this passage suggest about the human condition? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Can we only know who we are if we know the origin of human existence?
Compare and contrast your view with another account of who we are. *[12 marks]*
- (c) Imperfection is an essential characteristic of the human condition. Discuss. *[15 marks]*

Or:

2.



[Source: Mel Calman, *Calman Revisited* (Methuen; London; 1983) Chapter on Calman and Women]

- (a) What *philosophical* ideas about the nature of the self are suggested by this cartoon? [3 marks]
- (b) Selecting from the ideas outlined in 2(a), compare and contrast critical elements of **two** theories on the nature of the self. [12 marks]
- (c) "E-mail and the Internet pose a danger to human relationships. Essential moral relationships cannot be established without the physical presence of others." Discuss. [15 marks]

SECTION B

Answer **two** questions from this section, each on a different *Optional Theme*. Each question in this section is worth [30 marks].

Optional Theme 1: Political Philosophy

3. “Fear of serious injury cannot alone justify suppression of free speech and assembly. Men feared witches and burned women.” Analyse this statement and discuss it in the light of liberty and citizens’ duties.
4. “The problem of democracy is rule by majority. It would be preferable to have a benevolent dictator in charge. He would not have to face re-election and so does not have to pander to the prejudices of the masses.”

Is the speaker correct in her analysis of democracy? If so, does this justify her conclusions? If not, why not?

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. When we know, for instance in daily life, in sciences or in our opinions and beliefs, we use concepts. Is it possible to justify objectively the concepts that we use?
6. Discuss the idea that truths are only metaphors which, through their use, become evident and compelling for a society.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. Can human culture, seen as a whole, be described as the process of progressive self-liberation of human beings?
8. Discuss the possible meaning and implications of the statement that culture is the basic and essential distinction between the “same” and the “different”.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. Discuss the role of free will in Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.
10. Compare the nature of the ethical command of non-violence for Buddhists and Hindus with that of the Jihad for Muslims. Can we claim that the ultimate goal is identical, though the means are different?

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. Is the social structure founded on the division of labour? If so, to what extent? If not, why not?
12. Does technology limit or expand our relationship with nature?

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts

13. “Art can only be judged by its social and political impact, its ability to provoke dissent and to criticise events.” Critically examine and assess this claim.
14. What is the value, if any, of ugliness in Art?

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. “The universe is better with some evil in it than it could be if there were no evil.” Some believers used this argument as a defence for God’s existence when confronted with the presence of evil in the world. Does it successfully eliminate the claim that God cannot exist if evil does?
16. Criticisms of religion point out that religions are based on unprovable suppositions and basic beliefs. Should we therefore conclude that any rational analysis of religion is useless?

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. “Moral relativism is the only type of morality that seems justified in a pluralist democratic society. The consequence of this position, however, is that any concept of universal human rights is meaningless.” Discuss.
18. Should an ethical commitment to a worthwhile cause prevail over the laws of the land which makes a particular action in support of that cause illegal?

With the help of an example in Applied Ethics, discuss the nature of ethical commitment.
