

**PHILOSOPHY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 1**

Tuesday 20 May 2003 (afternoon)

2 hours 30 minutes

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**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.

*In answering questions, candidates are expected to:*

- *present an argument in an organized way*
- *use clear, precise and appropriate language*
- *identify any assumptions in the question*
- *develop a clear and focused argument*
- *identify the strengths and weaknesses of their response*
- *identify counter-arguments to their response, and address them if possible*
- *provide relevant supporting material, illustrations and/or examples where appropriate*
- *conclude by making a clear, concise and philosophically informed personal response to the examination question.*

### SECTION A

*Answer **one** question from this section. Write approximately 800 words divided into: part (a) 50 words, part (b) 250 words, part (c) 500 words.*

**Core Theme: What is a “human” being?**

*Either*

**1.**



Reproduction of Rodin’s “The Thinker”.

- (a) What idea about the self is suggested by this image? [3 marks]
- (b) Explain and assess the philosophical issues implied in the idea you have mentioned in (a). [12 marks]
- (c) “Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.”  
J W von Goethe.  
To what extent, if at all, do you agree with the quotation above? [15 marks]

*Or*

2.



Reproduction of Munch's "The Scream".

- (a) What idea about the self is suggested by this image? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast this idea mentioned in (a) with one other that you have studied. *[12 marks]*
- (c) Is it possible to conceive of a relationship with another person that is free from power. *[15 marks]*

## SECTION B

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

### Optional Theme 1: Political Philosophy

3. “The object of the State is always the same: to limit the individual, to tame him, to subordinate him, to subjugate him.” Is this assessment of the State a justified one?
4. “Rule of the People by the People for the People.” Identify and critically discuss the political system modelled along the lines of this statement.

### Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. The price of saying something about the real world is the possibility of error. What does this involve, in terms of our knowledge of the world?
6. Must science provide a rational, unified and systematic picture of reality?

### Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. “Culture implies the feeling of being part of humankind and provides us with ways to fulfill our desire to communicate as deeply, intimately and universally as possible.” Assess this view of culture.
8. Given that the practice of science is a cultural activity, is it a cultural activity at the same level as other cultural activities?

### Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. In your opinion, which concept of duty in the ethics of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam is most likely to produce a more harmonious society?
10. Critically examine the notion of self and its liberation in the context of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam.

**Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology**

11. “One of the major benefits of work is that it occupies us, relieving us from the tyranny of boredom.” Examine this statement and discuss the value that work has for us.
12. A. said: “Unemployment benefits are regarded as progress in developed nations.”  
B. replied: “I disagree. The best way to destroy a man is to pay him to do nothing.”

Do unemployment benefits constitute an improvement for societies, or contribute to the alienation of the unemployed?

**Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of The Arts**

13. “The artist is one who makes things simpler.” Does this statement accurately reflect what an artist does?
14. “Art is art because it is beautiful.” Critically examine this statement.

**Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion**

15. Does religious language influence our view of the world? If so, how?
16. Can we hold a religious belief and be logically coherent?

**Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics**

17. “Do good to those who do good to you, and harm to those who harm you.” Discuss and evaluate this statement as an ethical imperative.
18. Does the Principle of Human Preservation, that privileges human beings over all other species, constitute an acceptable principle for environmental ethics even if it involves killing animal life to survive? If the Principle of Human Preservation, is not acceptable, what other principle is?