



**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Tuesday 16 May 2006 (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 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. Study the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

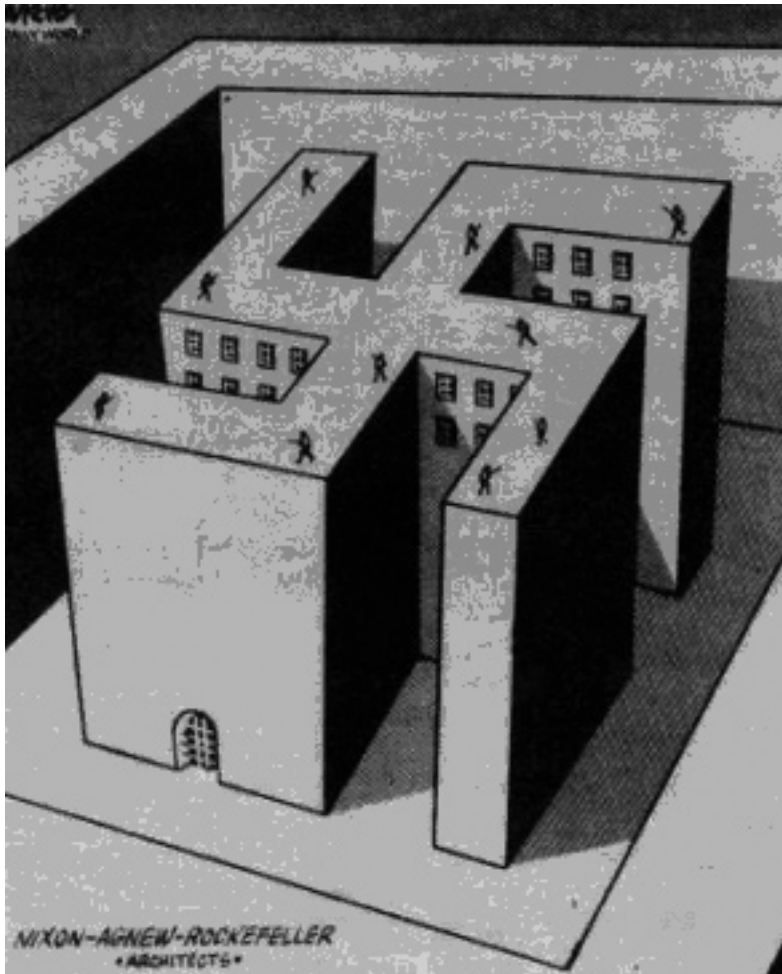
“He was thinking, incidentally, that there was a moment or two in his epileptic condition almost before the fit itself (if it occurred during his waking hours) when suddenly amid the sadness, spiritual darkness and depression, his brain seemed to catch fire at brief moments, and with an extraordinary momentum his vital forces were strained to the utmost all at once. His sensation of being alive and his awareness increased tenfold at those moments which flashed by like lightning. His mind and heart were flooded by a dazzling light. All his agitation, all his doubts and worries, seemed composed in a twinkling, culminating in a great calm, full of serene and harmonious joy and hope, full of understanding and the knowledge of the final cause. But those moments, those flashes of intuition, were merely the presentment of the last second (never more than a second) which preceded the actual fit. This second was, of course, unendurable.”

[Source: adapted from F Dostoyevsky “*The Idiot*” translated by D Magarshack, *Penguin* 1955]

- (a) What philosophical problem or idea about the mind-body relationship could be identified from this extract? [3 marks]
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical positions that explore the issue that you have identified. [12 marks]
- (c) “Introspection is an illusion of the mind. It has no validity.” Discuss. [15 marks]

Or

2. Study the picture below and answer the questions which follow.



[Source: from "Free Angela Davis, Hero of the other America" K Steiner 1972]

- (a) What philosophical problem or idea about the human condition could be identified from this picture? *[3 marks]*
- (b) Compare and contrast **two** different philosophical positions that explore the issue that you have identified from this picture. *[12 marks]*
- (c) Discuss the extent to which humans can or should seek individual freedom. *[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. To what extent should a law be deterrent by means of punishment?
4. Is it justifiable to disobey a law in a democracy because it goes against moral principles?

Optional Theme 2: Knowledge

5. “Many scientific discoveries are based on ‘acts of insight’ or simple intuition.” To what extent does this invalidate a scientific method?
6. “If one applies the idea of ‘seeing is believing’ to our understanding of the world, nothing remains as real except our present perception of it.” Discuss.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of Culture

7. “To allow for cultural advancement we should not hesitate to destroy previous cultural productions to make space for new ones.” Evaluate.
8. “I love my country too much to be a nationalist.” Explain and discuss this statement.

Optional Theme 4: World Philosophies

9. To what extent is egolessness possible and desirable? Critically discuss with reference to at least one of the following: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam.
10. Explain and evaluate the value of the individual in at least one of the following: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam.

Optional Theme 5: Nature, Work and Technology

11. “We do not own our natural world but have merely inherited it from our parents and are borrowing it from our children.” Discuss the implications of this statement on our responsibility towards the environment.
12. “Work and Play” to what extent are these two ideas opposites, one and the same, or is there another relationship?

Optional Theme 6: Philosophy of the Arts

13. “In order to create, artists must be free from moral responsibilities.” Discuss.
14. “The marketplace is the only reliable judgment in assessing the value of a work of art.” Evaluate.

Optional Theme 7: Philosophy of Religion

15. “The role of religious faith is to provide a unified meaning for life.” Discuss.
16. To what extent should spirituality eliminate the need for rational knowledge about God?

Optional Theme 8: Theories and Problems of Ethics

17. “Morality requires a person to act for the good of others.” Evaluate this claim.
 18. Discuss the degree to which the rightness of moral actions should be independent of circumstance, culture, history or gender.
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