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**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 1**

Wednesday 6 November 2013 (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.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is *[90 marks]*.

In your answers you are expected to:

- argue in an organized way using clear, precise language, which is appropriate to philosophy
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of appropriate philosophical issues
- analyse, develop and critically evaluate relevant ideas and arguments
- present appropriate examples providing support for your overall argument
- identify and analyse counter-arguments
- provide relevant supporting material, illustrations and/or examples
- offer a clear and philosophically relevant personal response to the examination question.

SECTION A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question in this section is worth [30 marks].

Core Theme: What is a human being?

1. Read the following passage and develop your response as indicated below.

Galen Strawson proposes a view of the self as non-persisting that shares much in common with the views of Buddhists, David Hume, and Derek Parfit. He develops his own view by placing it in relief against a particular backdrop, namely, how the self is ordinarily conceived. He summarizes this ordinary conception, which is grounded in phenomenology, in the eight claims that follow, namely, that the self is:

- (1) a *thing*, in some robust sense;
- (2) a *mental* thing, in some sense;
- (3) a *single* thing when considered *synchronically* (ie at a given time);
- (4) a *single* thing when considered *diachronically* (ie persisting from one time to another);
- (5) *ontologically distinct* from all other things;
- (6) a *subject of experience*, a conscious feeler and thinker;
- (7) an *agent*;
- (8) a thing that has a certain character or *personality*.

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Write a response (of approximately 800 words) in which you:

- identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue in this passage that addresses the question, “what is a human being?”
- investigate **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified
- explain and evaluate the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified.

2. Read the following passage and develop your response as indicated below.

Herrnstein and Murray claimed that the normal distribution of IQ scores recorded by black people and white people in the US showed the average [mean] score for black people to be 15 points lower than the mean for white people. They contended that this difference is due to heredity, that is, to genetic factors.

Stephen Jay Gould challenged Herrnstein and Murray’s account by attacking the four premises on which it rests: that intelligence is a single thing; that people can be ranked in a linear ordering according to intelligence; that intelligence is wholly genetically based; and that an individual’s intelligence cannot be changed. He contended that undermining any one of the four premises would undermine their position.

Against the first premise Gould argued that it is more compelling to believe that intelligence is many-layered and multidimensional. Against the second premise, he argued that while IQ tests do produce rankings, it has not been demonstrated that IQ tests test intelligence (rather than, for example, school performance or social background) or that IQ tests are free of cultural biases. According to Gould, until these possibilities are ruled out, the suspicion must be that attempts to rank people by IQ are attempts to establish that some groups of people are naturally inferior to others. Against the third premise, Gould contended that there is a false equation of that which can be inherited with what cannot be changed. He pointed out, by way of example, that an inherited defect in vision can be corrected with prescription spectacles. Finally, against the fourth premise, Gould contended that the empirical evidence for intelligence being amenable to alteration via environmental factors (for example, via social and educational interventions) is far stronger than for the view that a person’s IQ is unchangeable.

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Write a response (of approximately 800 words) in which you:

- identify a central philosophical concept or philosophical issue in this passage that addresses the question, “what is a human being?”
- investigate **two** different philosophical approaches to the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified
- explain and evaluate the philosophical concept or philosophical issue you identified.

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: Grounds of epistemology

3. “In epistemology, the notion of certainty can be defined and used in a variety of ways in the context of knowledge claims.” Discuss and evaluate.
4. Explain and discuss the ways in which it might be possible to justify knowledge.

Optional Theme 2: Theories and problems of ethics

5. Evaluate the problems encountered when claiming that ethical judgments can be derived from a universal moral principle.
6. With reference to one or more applied ethical issues you have studied, explain and discuss the importance of evaluating consequences in coming to an ethical decision.

Optional Theme 3: Philosophy of religion

7. Evaluate the importance of human experience to arguments for and against the existence of God.
8. “Religious behaviour gets in the way of people becoming genuinely spiritual.” Discuss and evaluate.

Optional Theme 4: Philosophy of art

9. Evaluate the claim that the purpose of art is to shock its audience.
10. Evaluate the claim that some works of art are better than others.

Optional Theme 5: Political philosophy

11. With reference to the forms and ideologies of government you have studied, evaluate which is conceptually the most justifiable.
12. “[...] a theory of justice that can serve as the basis of practical reasoning must include ways of judging how to reduce injustice and advance justice, rather than aiming only at the characterization of perfectly just societies.” Discuss and evaluate Amartya Sen’s claim.

Optional Theme 6: Non-Western traditions and perspectives

13. With reference to one or more of the non-Western traditions you have studied, evaluate the nature, role and scope of ethics.
14. With reference to one or more of the non-Western traditions you have studied, evaluate the notion of time and its relationship to an understanding of reality.

Optional Theme 7: Contemporary social issues

15. Evaluate the claim that social injustice legitimizes popular protest.
16. Evaluate philosophically the claim that humans should control nature.

Optional Theme 8: People, nations and cultures

17. Evaluate philosophically the claim that human creativity might and should find productive ways to overcome the conflict between tradition and new forms of culture.
 18. Evaluate philosophically the claim that it is desirable that humanity converges towards only one common global civilization.
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