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**PHILOSOPHY
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Friday 7 November 2014 (morning)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer one question.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is *[30 marks]*.

In your answer you are expected to:

- *argue in an organized way using clear, precise language, which is appropriate to philosophy, and demonstrate an understanding of the author’s specific terminology*
- *show an understanding of the specific demands of the question*
- *give references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text*
- *present appropriate examples providing support for your overall argument*
- *identify and analyse counter-arguments*
- *provide relevant supporting material, illustrations and/or examples*
- *develop a critical evaluation of the ideas and arguments of the text*
- *offer a clear and philosophically relevant personal response to the position expressed by the author.*

Answer **one** question. Each question is worth [30 marks].

Bhagavad Gita

1. Evaluate the view that the *Bhagavad Gita* might contribute to world peace by providing insight into the nature of, and a possible solution to, conflict and war.
2. “Meditation is a method to go beyond one’s reality, to gain greater wisdom of [the] self and a newer insight into who one is.” Discuss and evaluate.

Confucius: The Analects

3. Explain and discuss the view that Confucius’s version of the Golden Rule consists of two notions, *zhong* (loyalty, truthfulness to oneself, self-regard) and *shu* (reciprocity), which form the “one thread” running through the *Tao*.
4. Explain and discuss the view that Confucian ethics sees *ren tao* (the human way) in relation to *tian tao* (the way of heaven) through the practice of *li* (ritual).

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching

5. Evaluate the claim that in the service of heaven there is nothing better than limiting oneself and one’s actions.
6. Explain and discuss how if one “puts away morality and throws away duty” life will be better.

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

7. Evaluate Plato’s claim that it is because those suited to be workers are ruled by their appetites rather than their reason, that they should be governed by those in whom reason rules.
8. Evaluate the claim that an individual with a just soul will refrain from unjust activities.

René Descartes: *Meditations*

9. Evaluate Descartes’s arguments for God’s existence.
10. Explain and discuss the method of doubt which Descartes presents.

John Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

11. Evaluate Locke’s claim that since the main end of government is the preservation of the individual’s natural rights it cannot justify killing, enslaving, or plundering its citizens.
12. Evaluate Locke’s claim that “Since [money] [...] has its value only from the consent of men [...] it is plain that men have agreed to disproportionate and unequal possession of the earth”.

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

13. Evaluate the claim that the principles outlined by Mill support the criminalization of acts motivated by hatred but not of hate speech.
14. Evaluate whether Mill is consistent in opposing people voluntarily selling themselves into slavery while at the same time approving people voluntarily entering into arrangements that significantly restrict their freedom (for example, certain types of employment contract, certain lifestyle choices).

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

15. Evaluate Nietzsche’s claim that genealogy is concerned with “a real history of morality” and not with mere “hypothesis-mongering”.
16. Explain and discuss Nietzsche’s view that understanding slave morality as the creation of a particular type of people at a particular historical moment and for particular reasons “has been lost sight of because this morality [slave morality] was victorious”.

Bertrand Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*

17. Evaluate the claim that an essential characteristic of philosophical knowledge is criticism.
18. Explain and discuss the nature of universals and their relationship to knowledge.

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*

19. Evaluate the claim that the necessary element of plurality in action makes it “the condition of all political life”.
20. Explain and discuss what Arendt means by “loss of the world” in her critique of modernity.

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

21. Evaluate the claim that the human condition is ambiguous.
22. Explain and discuss the extent to which de Beauvoir justifies an “ethic of violence”.

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

23. “The ethics of authenticity holds the ethical imperative to be true to one’s own self. Each person is seen as having his or her own mode of being human and is encouraged to realize this rather than conform to a pre-existing model or a pattern imposed from outside.” Discuss and evaluate.
24. Explain and discuss the idea of soft despotism as a way of losing freedom.