

**PHILOSOPHY
STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Thursday 6 May 2004 (morning)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer one question.

In answering questions, candidates are expected to:

- *present an argument in an organized way*
- *use clear and precise language that is appropriate to philosophy, demonstrating that you understand the author's specific terminology*
- *answer the specific question asked*
- *give detailed references to the ideas and arguments presented in the text*
- *provide relevant supportive material and examples where appropriate*
- *analyse this material*
- *state a clear personal response to the position expressed by the author.*

*Answer **one** question.*

1. Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

Examine and evaluate the idea that, strictly speaking, nothing can be said about the Tao.

2. Confucius: *The Analects*

Explain and assess what Confucius means when he states, “the gentleman collects friends through culture, and through his friends supports humaneness.”

3. Plato: *The Republic*

Is it the case that Plato believes that rulers are born, not made? Discuss.

4. Aristotle: *The Nicomachean Ethics*

Using some appropriate examples of Aristotle's virtues, explain and discuss his view on the acquisition of moral goodness.

5. Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae*

Analyse and discuss Aquinas' reason for thinking that the human soul is not a composite of matter and form.

6. Descartes: *Meditations*

Why does Descartes introduce the Evil Genius hypothesis? Discuss.

7. Locke: *Second Treatise on Government*

Are the limits that Locke sets for legislative power justified? Explain your answer.

8. **Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding***
Explain Hume’s criticism of excessive skepticism. Critically evaluate his argument.

9. **Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality and Social Contract***
Explain and discuss how, according to Rousseau, early human society became corrupt. What remedy does Rousseau propose?

10. **Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals***
Explain and evaluate Kant’s claim that “a free will and a will under moral laws are one and the same”.

11. **Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals***
Nietzsche states that the creative act of *ressentiment* was in giving birth to its own set of values. Evaluate this claim.

12. **Mill: *Essay on Liberty***
With the help of examples, assess Mill’s view that a man can be punished for harming others, but not for harming himself.

13. **Freud: *Civilisation and its Discontents* and *Outline of Psychoanalysis***
Freud contends that “civilized man has exchanged a portion of his possibilities for happiness for a portion of security”. Explain what Freud means by this, and critically analyse it.

14. **Buber: *I and Thou***
Explain the difference Buber sees between “relation” and “experience”. Analyse it critically.

15. **Ortega y Gasset: *History as a System***
“History is a system, the system of human experiences linked in a single, inexorable [inevitable] chain.” Explain how Ortega reaches this conclusion and critically evaluate it.

16. **Wittgenstein: *The Blue and Brown Books***
“The sign (the sentence) gets its significance from the system of signs, from the language to which it belongs. Roughly: understanding a sentence means understanding a language.” Analyse and assess this idea in the context of Wittgenstein’s investigation of meaning.

17. **Arendt: *The Human Condition***
“World alienation and not self alienation, ..., has been the hallmark of the modern age.”
Explain and evaluate.

 18. **Simone de Beauvoir: *The Ethics of Ambiguity***
Critically evaluate the role that the concepts of “the present” and “the future” play in de Beauvoir’s ethical theory.

 19. **Rawls: *A Theory of Justice***
Analyse and evaluate Rawls’ claim that the principles of justice define an appropriate path between dogmatism and intolerance on the one side, and a reductionism which regards religion and morality as mere preferences on the other.

 20. **Feyerabend: *Farewell to Reason***
To what extent, if any, do you agree with Feyerabend when he states “...science is a tyranny that removes complexities from real life”?

 21. **Foucault: *The History of Sexuality***
What does Foucault mean when he speaks of the deployment of sexuality? Explain his views and comment critically.

 22. **Putnam: *Reason, Truth and History***
In the context of Putnam’s account of reason and history explain and evaluate his idea that cultural relativism is internally incoherent.

 23. **Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity***
Taylor argues that you cannot live an authentic life without “horizons of significance”. Explain and critically evaluate Taylor’s argument and say why you agree or disagree with his conclusion.

 24. **Nussbaum: *Poetic Justice***
Explain and critically discuss Nussbaum’s view on the judicious spectator.
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