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Philosophy

Higher level

Paper 1

26 April 2024

Zone A afternoon | Zone B afternoon | Zone C 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 **[75 marks]**.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

Core theme: Being human

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

We are all conscious beings; being conscious is fundamental to human existence. Our personal conscious experience is frequently described as our ‘stream of consciousness’, the “movie”... This includes sensory experience (smell, sounds, tastes, etc.), our emotions, memories, desires. Everything we do seems to start from a mental state, a feeling—whether it be a desire, belief, inclination, or all of the above.

With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

2. Look at the following image and develop your response as indicated below.



With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section, each chosen from a different optional theme. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

Optional theme 1: Aesthetics

3. Evaluate the claim that styles may change, but the demands of aesthetic judgment are permanent.
4. Evaluate the claim that art is the daughter of freedom.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Evaluate the claim that all justified, true beliefs are knowledge.
6. To what extent should false claims be censored?

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. To what extent should ethics be about doing the “right thing” more than doing the “best thing”?
8. Evaluate the claim that the interests of future generations should guide moral conduct.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. Evaluate the claim that the increase of automation and control technologies in the workplace is removing the individual’s right to work.
10. Explain and discuss the distinction between positive and negative freedom for the individual citizen in the contemporary state.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion

11. Evaluate the coherence of omnipotence as a characteristic of God/god(s).
12. Evaluate the view that religious language is meaningless because it is not factual.

Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science

13. Evaluate the claim that there is a clear difference between scientific and non-scientific theories.
14. Evaluate the claim that cognitive science can explain everything about the conscious mind.

Optional theme 7: Political philosophy

15. Explain and discuss the view that civil society is formed when a contract arises amongst people.
 16. Evaluate the view that social justice is an empty phrase without determinable content.
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References:

1. Cox-Rubien, R., 2019. *Pursuing natural unity, consciousness included*. BA. Scripps College. Available at: https://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2434&context=scripps_theses [Accessed 29 March 2023]. Source adapted.
2. Champja, n.d. *Asian woman scans face by smart phone using facial recognition system*. [image online] Available at: <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/asian-woman-scans-face-by-smart-phone-using-facial-royalty-free-image/1423549989?phrase=technology+and+identity&adppopup=true> [Accessed 25 May 2023].