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Philosophy

Higher level

Paper 1

9 May 2025

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

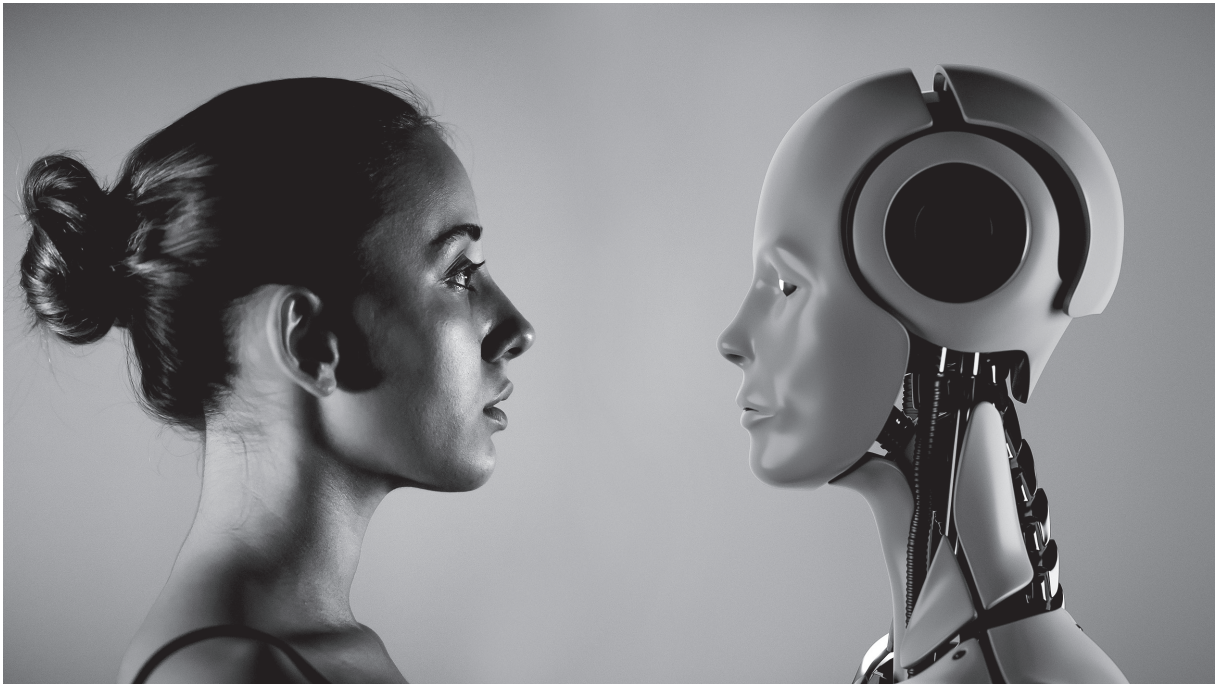
1. Read the following stimulus and develop your response as indicated below.

Extract from *Egyptian: Osiris and Isis*, from a collection entitled *Orpheus: Myths of the World*.

The beginning of the Egyptian myth of Osiris tells the following. “When Osiris reigned, death was not in the land. Weapons were not in men’s hands; there was no conflict, only peace. From one end of the land to the other, music sounded; men and women spoke sweetly and with such feeling that it all sounded like poetry. Osiris taught men and women wisdom and he taught them all the arts. It was he who first planted the vine, who showed men how and when to plant grain and care for the fruit trees; he caused them to rejoice in the flowers, also. Osiris made laws for men so that they were able to live together in harmony.”

With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, explore a philosophical issue related to the question of what it is 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, explore a philosophical issue related to the question of what it is 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 beauty is not a quality of things themselves.
4. Evaluate the claim that the authenticity of a work of art is threatened by its mechanical reproduction.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Evaluate the claim that a belief is knowledge if it is true, certain, and obtained by a reliable process.
6. Discuss the opposition between subjectivism and objectivism.

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. Evaluate the view that the right ethical action is the one that brings the best results.
8. Evaluate views that attempt to ground moral judgements in natural features of the world.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy of religion

9. Evaluate attempts to provide a logical way to prove the existence of God/god(s).
10. Evaluate the claim that religious language does not convey anything about the material world.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of science

11. Evaluate the claim that the aim of science is not to seek truth about the world, but to make predictions.
12. Evaluate the role that scientific language plays in the understanding of our world.

Optional theme 6: Political philosophy

13. Discuss the idea of the social contract as a way to explain the individual's relationship with the state.
14. Evaluate the claim that human rights have no basis in the natural order.

Optional theme 7: Social philosophy

15. Evaluate the claim that individuals, not institutions, cause injustice.
 16. Evaluate the conflict between cultural relativism and the universality of human rights for minority communities.
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References:

1. Colum, P., 1930. Egyptian: Osiris and Isis. *Orpheus: Myths of the World*, [online] Available at: <https://sacred-texts.com/etc/omw/omw21.htm> [Accessed 15 April 2024]. Source adapted.
2. imaginima, 2022. *Human Vs Robot - stock photo*, [image online] Available at: <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/human-vs-robot-royalty-free-image/1404749040?adppopup=true> [Accessed 15 April 2024]. Source adapted.