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Philosophy

Higher level and standard level

Paper 2

12 May 2025

Zone A morning | Zone B morning | Zone C morning

1 hour

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer both parts of one question.
- A clean copy of the prescribed text is required for this paper.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

Answer **both** parts (a) and (b) of **one** question. Each question is worth [25 marks].

Alfred Jules Ayer: *Language, Truth and Logic*

1. (a) Explain Ayer's claim that his philosophy is a form of empiricism. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ayer's claim that his philosophy is a form of empiricism. [15]
2. (a) Explain Ayer's account of judgements of value. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ayer's account of judgements of value. [15]

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*, Vol. 1 part 1, Vol. 2 part 1 and Vol. 2 part 4

3. (a) Explain de Beauvoir's claim that private property is owned by men in modern society, and women are also becoming the property of men. [10]
(b) Evaluate de Beauvoir's claim that private property is owned by men in modern society, and women are also becoming the property of men. [15]
4. (a) Explain de Beauvoir's claim that being a woman is a condition not related to being, but to becoming. [10]
(b) Evaluate de Beauvoir's claim that being a woman is a condition not related to being, but to becoming. [15]

Confucius: *The Analects*

5. (a) Explain Confucius's view on the family. [10]
(b) Evaluate Confucius's view on the family. [15]
6. (a) Explain the qualities that are required of a humane (*ren*) person. [10]
(b) Evaluate the qualities that are required of a humane (*ren*) person. [15]

René Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy*

7. (a) Explain the sceptical arguments that Descartes proposes as the starting points for his method of systematic doubt. [10]
(b) Evaluate the sceptical arguments that Descartes proposes as the starting points for his method of systematic doubt. [15]
8. (a) Explain Descartes’s notion of free will. [10]
(b) Evaluate Descartes’s notion of free will. [15]

Frantz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Masks*

9. (a) Explain Fanon’s claim that by speaking pidgin, speakers stay where they are. [10]
(b) Evaluate Fanon’s claim that by speaking pidgin, speakers stay where they are. [15]
10. (a) Explain Fanon’s argument that authentic love remains impossible while the woman of colour has a feeling of inferiority. [10]
(b) Evaluate Fanon’s argument that authentic love remains impossible while the woman of colour has a feeling of inferiority. [15]

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

11. (a) Explain Mill’s claim that one of the most important features of history is the struggle between liberty and authority. [10]
(b) Evaluate Mill’s claim that one of the most important features of history is the struggle between liberty and authority. [15]
12. (a) Explain Mill’s view that actions should not be considered to be as free as opinions. [10]
(b) Evaluate Mill’s view that actions should not be considered to be as free as opinions. [15]

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

13. (a) Explain Nietzsche’s claim that the two opposing values, ‘good and bad’ and ‘good and evil’, have fought a dreadful thousand-year fight in the world. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Nietzsche’s claim that the two opposing values, ‘good and bad’ and ‘good and evil’, have fought a dreadful thousand-year fight in the world. [15]
14. (a) Explain Nietzsche’s views about the meaning of ascetic ideals. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Nietzsche’s views about the meaning of ascetic ideals. [15]

Martha C. Nussbaum: *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*

15. (a) Explain Nussbaum’s claim that we need an approach that defines achievement in terms of the opportunities open to each person. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Nussbaum’s claim that we need an approach that defines achievement in terms of the opportunities open to each person. [15]
16. (a) Explain Nussbaum’s claim that on the other side of capability is functioning. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Nussbaum’s claim that on the other side of capability is functioning. [15]

José Ortega y Gasset: *The Revolt of the Masses*

17. (a) Explain Ortega y Gasset’s claim that there are no longer protagonists but only the chorus. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Ortega y Gasset’s claim that there are no longer protagonists but only the chorus. [15]
18. (a) Explain Ortega y Gasset’s claim that the role of the state should be limited. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Ortega y Gasset’s claim that the role of the state should be limited. [15]

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

19. (a) Explain the role of the community of women and children in Plato's Republic. [10]
(b) Evaluate the role of the community of women and children in Plato's Republic. [15]
20. (a) Explain Plato's claim that a just soul will lead to a just city. [10]
(b) Evaluate Plato's claim that a just soul will lead to a just city. [15]

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

21. (a) Explain the claim that authenticity calls for an understanding of the moral force behind notions like self-fulfilment. [10]
(b) Evaluate the claim that authenticity calls for an understanding of the moral force behind notions like self-fulfilment. [15]
22. (a) Explain Taylor's claim that in a large and complex technological society, common affairs have to be managed to some degree according to the principles of bureaucratic rationality. [10]
(b) Evaluate Taylor's claim that in a large and complex technological society, common affairs have to be managed to some degree according to the principles of bureaucratic rationality. [15]

Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

23. (a) Explain the role of *wu wei* (non-action) in relation to the Tao. [10]
(b) Evaluate the role of *wu wei* (non-action) in relation to the Tao. [15]
24. (a) Explain the relationship between language and the Tao. [10]
(b) Evaluate the relationship between language and the Tao. [15]
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