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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 there is no field of experience which cannot be brought under some form of scientific law. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ayer’s claim that there is no field of experience which cannot be brought under some form of scientific law. [15]
2. (a) Explain Ayer’s analysis of the judgement that stealing money is wrong. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ayer’s analysis of the judgement that stealing money is wrong. [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 idea about the path to gender equality. [10]
(b) Evaluate de Beauvoir’s idea about the path to gender equality. [15]
4. (a) Explain de Beauvoir’s idea of the independent woman. [10]
(b) Evaluate de Beauvoir’s idea of the independent woman. [15]

Confucius: *The Analects*

5. (a) Explain Confucius’s character of a *junzi* (ruler’s son, “gentleman”, or “superior person”). [10]
(b) Evaluate Confucius’s character of a *junzi* (ruler’s son, “gentleman”, or “superior person”). [15]
6. (a) Explain Confucius’s views on virtue. [10]
(b) Evaluate Confucius’s views on virtue. [15]

René Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy*

7. (a) Explain Descartes’s argument that clear and distinct mental perceptions can be trusted as reliable indicators of truth. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Descartes’s argument that clear and distinct mental perceptions can be trusted as reliable indicators of truth. [15]
8. (a) Explain the nature of Descartes’s separation between mind and body. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the nature of Descartes’s separation between mind and body. [15]

Frantz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Masks*

9. (a) Explain Fanon’s view that the man of colour being loved by a white woman is trying to become a white man. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Fanon’s view that the man of colour being loved by a white woman is trying to become a white man. [15]
10. (a) Explain the importance of language to Fanon’s account of the “black man’s dimension of being-for-others”. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the importance of language to Fanon’s account of the “black man’s dimension of being-for-others”. [15]

John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*

11. (a) Explain Mill’s view that if any person acts only according to custom, that person will gain no experience in determining what is best. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Mill’s view that if any person acts only according to custom, that person will gain no experience in determining what is best. [15]
12. (a) Explain Mill’s estimation of the evils that result from silencing the discussion of opinions. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Mill’s estimation of the evils that result from silencing the discussion of opinions. [15]

Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Genealogy of Morals*

13. (a) Explain Nietzsche’s idea of “comedians of the ideal” in relation to the “ascetic ideal”. [10]
(b) Evaluate Nietzsche’s idea of “comedians of the ideal” in relation to the “ascetic ideal”. [15]
14. (a) Explain Nietzsche’s relationship between the will to power and master morality. [10]
(b) Evaluate Nietzsche’s relationship between the will to power and master morality. [15]

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

15. (a) Explain Nussbaum’s Capabilities Approach as an approach to basic social justice. [10]
(b) Evaluate Nussbaum’s Capabilities Approach as an approach to basic social justice. [15]
16. (a) Explain Nussbaum’s claim that development economics has wide-ranging influence on our world. [10]
(b) Evaluate Nussbaum’s claim that development economics has wide-ranging influence on our world. [15]

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

17. (a) Explain Ortega y Gasset’s claim that the rebellion of the masses may lead to an unexampled organization of humanity, but it may also be a catastrophe of human destiny. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ortega y Gasset’s claim that the rebellion of the masses may lead to an unexampled organization of humanity, but it may also be a catastrophe of human destiny. [15]
18. (a) Explain Ortega y Gasset’s concept of a “self-satisfied man”. [10]
(b) Evaluate Ortega y Gasset’s concept of a “self-satisfied man”. [15]

Plato: *The Republic*, Books IV–IX

19. (a) Explain Plato’s claim that tyranny naturally arises out of democracy, timocracy, oligarchy, and aristocracy. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Plato’s claim that tyranny naturally arises out of democracy, timocracy, oligarchy, and aristocracy. [15]
20. (a) Explain Plato’s claim that the prisoners in the Cave Analogy only see their own shadows, or the shadows of one another. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Plato’s claim that the prisoners in the Cave Analogy only see their own shadows, or the shadows of one another. [15]

Charles Taylor: *The Ethics of Authenticity*

21. (a) Explain Taylor’s view on how our identity is formed. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Taylor’s view on how our identity is formed. [15]
22. (a) Explain Taylor’s claim that the relativism widely held today is a profound mistake, even in some respects self-limiting. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Taylor’s claim that the relativism widely held today is a profound mistake, even in some respects self-limiting. [15]

Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

23. (a) Explain Lao Tzu’s notion of virtue (*te*). [10]
- (b) Evaluate Lao Tzu’s notion of virtue (*te*). [15]
24. (a) Explain Lao Tzu’s view that moderation (*jian*) is the avoidance of excesses and extremes. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Lao Tzu’s view that moderation (*jian*) is the avoidance of excesses and extremes. [15]
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