

GENERAL PAPER I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'Satirising the super-rich is not art; it is shooting fish in a barrel.' Discuss.
2. Which aspects of someone's life should go into their obituary? Why?
3. 'Never memorise something that you can look up' (ALBERT EINSTEIN). Is this good advice today?
4. 'No action or speech is ever truly spontaneous.' Discuss.
5. How should healthcare be funded?
6. 'The trouble is that we have a bad habit, encouraged by pedants and sophisticates, of considering happiness as something rather stupid. Only pain is intellectual, only evil interesting' (URSULA LE GUIN). Do you agree?
7. 'When we read, another person thinks for us ... we merely repeat [their] mental process' (ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER). Discuss.
8. Is the loss of language diversity no less a tragedy than the loss of biological diversity?
9. Would the capacity to lay eggs change the debate on abortion?
10. 'We should be no less horrified at the idea of eating the wing of a dead chicken than at the idea of eating live monkey brains.' Discuss.
11. 'Nature, when she formed man for society, endowed him with an original desire to please, and an original aversion to offend his brethren. She taught him to feel pleasure in their favourable, and pain in their unfavourable, regard' (ADAM SMITH). Discuss.
12. Are there any ethical reasons to limit countries' participation in major sporting events?
13. Discuss an underexamined political emotion.
14. Is identity politics here to stay?

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15. Is it moral to spend billions to discover the Higgs boson or gravitational waves while billions suffer hunger?
16. 'To deny that Bach is better than Britney is simply to play into the hands of consumer capitalism.' Discuss.
17. Can racism be eradicated?
18. 'If you can't understand the science, you have no right to expect your opinions on climate change to be taken seriously.' Discuss.
19. 'Academics are like priests: they disguise truisms in jargon to claim authority over others.' Discuss.
20. 'Cities controlled by big companies are old hat in science fiction ... The company-city subgenre always seems to star a hero who outsmarted, overthrew, or escaped "the company". I've never seen one where the hero fought like hell to get taken in and underpaid by the company. In real life, that's the way it will be' (OCTAVIA BUTLER). Do you agree?
21. Are AI tools such as ChatGPT changing the nature of knowledge?
22. If life is discovered beyond Earth, will that change anything on Earth?
23. Name one book, film, artwork, TV show, song, or piece of music that has changed society, and explain why.
24. What is love?
25. 'The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom' (ISAAC ASIMOV, 1988). Discuss.

GENERAL PAPER II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. To what extent should social and economic rights be considered as human rights?
2. Discuss the claim that '[s]ome goods – inherently public goods – can only be provided by public institutions' (ALON HAREL).
3. Does membership of supranational organisations undermine national sovereignty?
4. Can the concept of 'terrorism' be applied to the policies of a government towards its own population?
5. How can social democracy survive its crisis?
6. Is secularisation reversible?
7. Historicise shame.
8. Do historians pay too much attention to radicals and heretics, and too little to the development of orthodoxy?
9. As we move from the general to the particular in human history, where does the explanatory power of climate history come to an end?
10. Has there ever been a society about which one could say that it did not possess 'science'?
11. 'If you own a phone or a laptop you are no less guilty of benefitting from slavery than Europeans of the colonial period.' Do you agree?
12. 'Hogwarts would have avoided problems with radicalisation if it had been legally obliged to prevent extremism.' Discuss.
13. 'Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning' (MAYA ANGELOU). Discuss.
14. Is there any value in vicious reviews?

15. 'Art arises out of our desire for both beauty and truth and our knowledge that they are not identical' (W.H. AUDEN). Discuss.
16. 'Years of imprisoning and beheading writers never succeeded in shutting them out. However, placing them in the heart of a market and rewarding them with a lot of commercial success, has' (ARUNDHATI ROY). Discuss.
17. 'The problem is, a lot of what is called economics is not economics. It is more ideology' (JOSEPH STIGLITZ). Discuss.
18. Is aid the process by which the poor in rich countries subsidize the rich in poor countries?
19. Should older people be allowed to vote on issues that affect only younger people?
20. Is financial restitution the best form of reparation?
21. Can modern doctors learn anything useful from ancient medical texts?
22. Is it part of a scholar's role to counter far-right appropriations of the ancient world?
23. Was Roman literary culture a male space?
24. Is colloquial Latin Romance?
25. Can objectifying another person ever be justified?
26. Can an institution care?
27. 'An eternal life would be unliveable' (BERNARD WILLIAMS). Discuss.
28. How should we explain the notion of a biological species?
29. 'We are all migrants through time' (MOHSIN HAMID). Discuss.