

PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

Candidates should feel free to answer questions that are not explicitly of a historical nature through the history of philosophy, and they are encouraged to address both theoretical and practical topics in their choice of questions.

1. Is the transcendental subject the first principle of philosophy? If not, what is?
2. Defend the view that existence comes in degrees.
3. Are you a worm stretching across a region of space-time?
4. If something is possible, is it necessarily possible?
5. Can virtual worlds be real?
6. Did Tarski give a satisfactory account of logical consequence?
7. Is there a normative element in the concept of truth?
8. Compare 'good' and 'red'.
9. Could there be causes without laws?
10. Is omniscience a coherent ideal?
11. Does a visitor to Fake Barn County who happens to look at a real barn know that she is looking at a barn? Does she know that she knows?
12. What is the difference between knowledge and understanding?
13. Could there ever be good reason to believe that a miracle had occurred?
14. What is the relationship between the speech acts of telling someone that something is the case and telling them to do something?
15. 'Jill has become the best paid columnist in Fleet Street'. How would you describe the role of the word 'the' in this sentence?
16. Can perception be (ir)rational?

[OVER]

17. 'The primitive sign of wanting is trying to get' (ANSCOMBE). Discuss.
18. Defend the identity of mind and nature.
19. Can the philosophy of mind learn anything from hallucinogenic states?
20. Is chemistry reducible to physics?
21. Does the Burali-Forti Paradox show that *ordinal number* is an indefinitely extensible concept?
22. Are intentional actions the same as those done for reasons?
23. Is there a meaningful distinction to be made between positive and negative freedom?
24. Is the notion of a 'moral sentiment' coherent and/or important?
25. Is moral worth overrated?
26. Can changes in fashion have normative significance?
27. Should feminists be liberals?
28. Does it matter to the permissibility of assisted dying whether a patient's illness is physical or mental?
29. Must an aesthician be knowledgeable about art?
30. Does a philosopher's writing style have any bearing on the quality of their philosophy?

PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

Candidates should feel free to answer questions that are not explicitly of a historical nature through the history of philosophy, and they are encouraged to address both theoretical and practical topics in their choice of questions.

1. Should philosophy provide consolation?
2. What is a category?
3. Is time real?
4. What is a sound?
5. If no one alive in 2050 is identical to you, could there still be circumstances in which you have survived until then?
6. '[It] is said that though we have all found out that there are no unicorns, of course there *might* have been unicorns. Under certain circumstances there would have been unicorns. And this is an example of something I think is not the case' (KRIPKE). Discuss.
7. Does the notion of a completed infinity make sense?
8. Are commands inconsistent in the same sense in which statements are?
9. Is convention the mother of logical necessity?
10. Is the notion of a most perfect being coherent? If so, what would it be like?
11. Are there ineffable truths?
12. Are there uses of 'exists' which demand to be analysed as predicative?
13. '[The word] "I" is neither a name nor any kind of expression whose logical role is to make a reference, *at all*' (ANSCOMBE). Assess this claim.
14. Is there any philosophical significance to irony?
15. Defend the *Mimamsaka* view that language is eternal.

[OVER]

16. 'The justification of induction which cites the past success of inductive methods is circular, but not viciously so'. Discuss.
17. Is there such a thing as epistemic injustice?
18. Defend the *a priori*.
19. Does perception have content?
20. Does the philosophy of mind have anything to learn from psychoanalysis?
21. Does it make sense to talk about the aim of belief?
22. How, if at all, can reasons be causes?
23. What more, if anything, does a free agent need in order to possess a free will?
24. Does it make sense to say that one false scientific theory is closer to the truth than another?
25. 'The method of "postulating" what we want has many advantages; they are the advantages of theft over honest toil' (RUSSELL). Discuss.
26. 'Our moral psychology has characterized, not the generic agent, but a particular species of agent, and a particularly bland species of agent, at that. It has characterized the earnest agent, while ignoring those agents who are disaffected, refractory, silly, satanic, or punk' (DAVID VELLEMAN). Discuss.
27. Is there any relation between what is good-for-us and what is good *simpliciter*?
28. 'I don't know whether there are any moral saints. But if there are, I am glad that neither I nor those about whom I care most are among them' (SUSAN WOLF). Discuss.
29. Does the FTX scandal demonstrate anything about Effective Altruism as a philosophical position?
30. Does feminist politics and/or philosophy require a definition of 'woman'?
31. Is there a duty to obey unjust laws?
32. Is there such a thing as philosophical modernity?