

# PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'If there is a god, they will look benevolently upon atheists.' Discuss.
2. Is disability primarily a social phenomenon?
3. Is the principle of bivalence incompatible with free action? Explain.
4. 'Anything that exists is (exactly) one thing. Therefore, to be many is not to exist.' Discuss.
5. Can there be vague objects?
6. Can there be time without change? Change without time?
7. Is it possible to define truth?
8. Compare the merits of Aristotelian and Newtonian mechanics.
9. Should we expect that mathematics is in principle dispensable in natural science?
10. Can testimony convey the quality of experiences?
11. Is Plato's tripartition of the soul still of any philosophical relevance?
12. Explain and evaluate Epicurus' theory of perception.
13. How many things-in-themselves did Kant think there are? Does it matter?
14. Is envy necessarily bad?
15. Should there be laws that require the gradual replacement of natural animal meat with lab-grown meat?
16. Can there be rights without duties? Justify your answer.
17. How did Leibniz explain the meanings of subject-predicate propositions? Assess the merits of his explanation relative to the Fregean one.
18. If there are moral facts, are they necessary truths?
19. Suppose that two knife blades and two knife handles are laid out on a table. In such circumstances, ought we also to accept that there are at least four possible knives?

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20. To what extent does ontology reflect grammar?
21. To what extent should citizens of democracies be held responsible for the acts of their governments?
22. Can the freedom of the many outweigh the fear of the few?
23. Is virtual reality genuine reality?
24. How does Kant's categorical imperative differ from the golden rule?
25. Should we avoid transformative experiences?
26. When Locke wrote that 'there is nothing in the apple that resembles its sweetness', what did he mean? Was he right?
27. 'I have to say that I would find it easier to concede matter and extension to the soul than to concede that an immaterial thing could move and be moved by a body ...' (ELISABETH OF BOHEMIA). Is this a valid criticism of Descartes?
28. In order for an agent to be rational, to what extent must their beliefs cohere through time?
29. Suppose that by philosophical reflection Alexis comes to believe that global scepticism is a *coherent* position. How, if at all, might this conclusion affect her life?
30. Am I the same person now that I was when I was a toddler?
31. Explain the role of imitation in gender.
32. Compare the operation of negation as applied to declarative sentences and imperatives.
33. What can be said in favour of a 'no self' theory of mind?
34. What are colours?

## PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Can there be objective moral norms without religion?
2. What do philosophers mean when they say that race is socially constructed?
3. Is there such a thing as a free will?
4. Is nothing something?
5. 'There is no higher-order vagueness, strictly so-called' (STEWART SHAPIRO). Discuss.
6. Do we move through time from the past towards the future or does the present move with us from the past to the future?
7. Can a proposition be true by convention?
8. Does quantum entanglement undermine our common-sense assumptions about causality?
9. Are there absolutely undecidable mathematical propositions?
10. What is the relation between physical time and phenomenological duration?
11. Is it acceptable for a state to ban certain kinds of instrumental music because it arouses undesirable emotions?
12. Are emotions (*pathê*) simply false beliefs?
13. What does Kant mean by pure reason and what is its role in cognition?
14. Can friendship be bought?
15. Do we have a responsibility to leave an inhabitable world for the next generation?
16. Do adults have a right to be loved?
17. What was Descartes' 'method of doubt'? Could he have equally plausibly advanced a 'method of credulousness'?
18. Does belief in moral progress rationally require belief in moral realism?
19. Can modal logic tell us anything about reality?

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20. 'When I think about Joe Biden, I think about Biden, not the idea of Biden. Similarly, when I think about Santa Claus, I think about Santa, and not the idea of Santa. So, Santa exists as an object of thought in the same sense Joe Biden does.' Where, if at all, does this line of reasoning go wrong?
21. Compare the merits of ideal forms of democracy and meritocracy as means of electing leaders.
22. Should we make state membership, along with protection by and subjugation to its laws, an optional matter?
23. Does artificial superintelligence pose a serious threat to the existence of humanity? How significant a concern should this prospect be for public policy?
24. Can one consent to be coerced to do something at a later time?
25. Why did Berkeley think that it was impossible to even conceive of an object existing unperceived? Where, if at all, does his reasoning go wrong?
26. 'Against that positivism which stops before phenomena, saying 'there are only facts,' I should say: no, it is precisely facts that do not exist, only interpretations [do]' (FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE). Discuss.
27. Do the origins of our beliefs or of our concepts matter?
28. Has Zeno's paradox of Achilles and the Tortoise been resolved?
29. Does the originality in a work of art affect its aesthetic value?
30. Can a cause and its effect occur or exist at the same time?
31. Can slurs offend even if the speaker neither intends to offend nor believes that their words are slurs? How?
32. Can there be a specifically feminist metaphysics?
33. Does Stoic syllogistic make Aristotelian syllogistic obsolete?
34. What are the limits of the experimental method?

# PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'Just as the end goal of socialist revolution was not only the elimination of the economic class *privilege* but of the economic class *distinction* itself, so the end goal of feminist revolution must be . . . not just the elimination of male *privilege* but of the sex *distinction* itself: genital differences between human beings would no longer matter culturally' (SHULAMITH FIRESTONE). Discuss.
2. When a new, non-empty social kind concept is articulated, does a new social kind come into existence?
3. What can political philosophers learn from the practitioners of politics?
4. When we discover that a work of art was created by a bad person, should our aesthetic relation to it change?
5. 'A person is a person through a person.' Discuss.
6. 'One who is happy to replace her beloved with someone qualitatively similar or better doesn't really love.' Does this tell us anything about the nature of love?
7. Does consent mark the boundary of ethically permissible sex?
8. If there is no God, is there a problem of evil?
9. Plato, Aristotle—or neither?
10. What can medieval Islamic debates about *taqlīd* contribute to contemporary philosophical thinking?
11. 'Hume's claim that reason is the slave of the passions is the greatest misstep in early modern philosophy.' Discuss.
12. Is there a place for hylo-morphism after the scientific revolution?
13. Is there a livable nihilism?
14. Explain the Russellian and Strawsonian approaches to definite descriptions. Which is better?
15. Could there be a private language?
16. Should the moral value of a belief have any determining role in its epistemic value?
17. Are the norms of good inquiry reducible to the norms of good belief formation?
18. Can we talk, or think, about everything that exists?

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19. Is there a coherent notion of metaphysical modality?
20. Is there such a subject as inductive logic?
21. Can pronouns of natural language be well-modeled as variables?
22. Suppose that Sheila thinks all cats are cute, but does not know about the existence of my cat Miau. Can I truly say 'Sheila thinks that Miau is cute'?
23. Explore the ramifications of computational complexity theory for the philosophy of mind.
24. Could rocks be conscious?
25. To what extent does work in psychology **AND/OR** economics show that humans are irrational?
26. Suppose that some outcome of a given physical system is deterministic. Can we nonetheless make sense of a notion of objective chance concerning this outcome?
27. How do we explain the apparent similarities and divergences between the natural language conditional and the material conditional?
28. Can mathematical facts explain physical phenomena?
29. 'Models are not lost noumenal waifs looking for someone to name them; they are constructions within our theory itself, and they have names from birth' (HILARY PUTNAM). Discuss.

## PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'Colonialism is not a thinking machine, nor a body endowed with reasoning faculties. It is violence in its natural state, and it will only yield when confronted with greater violence' (FRANTZ FANON). Discuss.
2. In virtue of what, if anything, are both music and painting forms of art?
3. What is the wrong in cultural appropriation?
4. What role, if any, does the imagination have in an ethical life?
5. Why do we have obligations to the dead?
6. Can any metaethical theory be neutral on all first-order ethical questions?
7. 'Marx did not have, and did not need, a moral philosophy.' Discuss.
8. '[Human] nature is good (性善)' (MENCIUS). Is it?
9. Does a Buddhist no-self theory imply that emotions which presuppose the self/other distinction, e.g. shame or compassion, are unjustified?
10. What did the ancients know that we have forgotten?
11. Is there a valid version of the ontological argument?
12. Of what philosophical significance is the history of philosophy?
13. Does existence precede essence?
14. What can only be fully understood with reference to the unconscious?
15. What role, if any, should notions of blameworthiness and praiseworthiness have in epistemology?
16. How many numbers are there?
17. Is there a consistent version of verificationism? If so, is it plausible?
18. How should we evaluate the sentence 'What this sentence says is true'?
19. What does reverse mathematics teach us about the foundations of mathematics?
20. What is wrong with asserting 'It's raining but I don't know that it is'? What is wrong with thinking this?

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21. What does the recent success of machine-learning based NLP tell us about human language?
22. Can well-being be quantified?
23. What were sense data?
24. Is time bias irrational?
25. What is the truth-maker for a quantified sentence like 'Someone owns a donkey'?  
What about for 'No one owns a donkey'?
26. What is the best response to Arrow's impossibility result? (Focus on one or two domains.)
27. Which philosophical debate should be dissolved?
28. Do the paradoxes of quantum mechanics pose a threat to classical logic?

# PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. What is phenomenology?
2. What limits can the state impose on the right to procreate?
3. If you know  $p$ , then are you entitled to dismiss evidence suggesting  $p$  is false?
4. Is belief attempted knowledge?
5. Is logical entailment a transitive relation?
6. Is pain purely representational, and, if so, of what?
7. Is teleosemantics plausible?
8. What are physical laws?
9. Does Moore's refutation of scepticism succeed?
10. 'Willing, if it is not to be a sort of wishing, must be the action itself' (WITTGENSTEIN). Discuss.
11. Ought there to be a feminist metaphysics?
12. Can we give a counterfactual analysis of causation?
13. Should we try to define art?
14. How do metaphors work?
15. What does following a rule consist in?
16. What is Kant's transcendental deduction trying to show?
17. Does Nietzsche aim to put forward a consistent philosophical position?
18. Is Wittgenstein's idea of a 'language game' helpful?
19. Are there different ways for a declarative sentence to fail to be true or false?
20. Should scientists search for neural correlates of consciousness?
21. When we have a hallucination, what do we see?
22. Do we have infallible access to (some of) our mental states?

23. 'Arithmetic has a very great and elevating effect, compelling the mind to reason about abstract number, and rebelling against the introduction of visible or tangible objects into the argument' (PLATO). Discuss.
24. When is blame appropriate?
25. Can we learn anything from trolley problems?
26. Do Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems tell us anything about human intelligence?
27. As democracies crumble, is there any place left for 'ideal theory' in political philosophy?
28. 'There are then facts, moral truths, about what we ought to do, but that is not because the actions are intrinsically normative. They inherit their normativity from principles that spring from the nature of the will—the principles of practical reasoning' (KORSGAARD). Discuss.
29. Should there be one logic to rule them all?
30. Do conditionals have truth conditions?
31. 'To the extent that the technical issues that fill Anglophone journals result in any comprehensible way from questions of large significance, they do not seem to have reached the stage at which firm answers might be found. Any defence of the idea that philosophy, like particle physics and molecular biology, proceeds by the accumulation of reliable answers to technical questions would have to provide examples of consensus on which larger agreements are built. Yet, as the philosophical questions diminish in size, disagreement and controversy persist, new distinctions are drawn, and yet tinier issues are generated. Decomposition continues downwards, until the interested community becomes too exhausted, too small, or too tired to play the game any further' (PHILIP KITCHER). Discuss.

## PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'Not being wise is no more a real property than Nonsocrates is a real particular.' Discuss.
2. Are causal relationships identifiable as those which are potentially exploitable for the purposes of manipulation and control?
3. If something is the case, is it necessarily possible that it is the case?
4. Was Spinoza really a monist?
5. 'An object is red if it produces a characteristic sensation in a suitably placed observer. An event is funny if it produces a characteristic reaction in a suitably placed observer. Therefore being funny is no less objective a property than is being red.' Discuss.
6. What reason is there, if any, to believe that the Sun will rise tomorrow?
7. Is there a coherent and explanatory distinction between *a priori* and *a posteriori* knowledge? If there is, draw it. Otherwise, explain why such a distinction cannot be drawn.
8. In what sense, if any, is the future open while the past is closed?
9. If person *A* survives as person *B*, must *B* be identical with *A*?
10. What am I doing when I imagine myself as Napoleon at the Battle of Austerlitz?
11. 'It is a philosophical myth that actions are well explained by the agent's beliefs and desires. For most of the time people just muddle along with no clear idea of what they think or what they want.' Discuss.
12. When a thermostat triggers the firing of a boiler, does it believe that the room in which it is situated is too cold?
13. 'One who makes a statement or assertion makes a true statement if and only if things are as, in making that statement, he states them to be' (P. F. STRAWSON). Need anything further be said about the concept of truth?
14. What do you take to be the strongest challenge to a law of classical logic? Can the challenge be resisted?
15. Does Aristotle's theoretical philosophy play an important role in his practical philosophy?

16. Do the sentences 'John silently robbed the bank' and 'John allegedly robbed the bank' share a logical form?
17. Are two-system accounts of cognition illuminating?
18. Given that the names 'Zeus' and 'Wotan' each lack a reference, how would you account for their differing in meaning?
19. Is it possible to derive an *ought* from an *is*?
20. Is there a coherent notion of a moral reason?
21. If it is wrong to do something, is it always wrong to threaten to do it?
22. 'It is not profitable for us at present to do moral philosophy; that should be laid aside until we have an adequate philosophy of psychology, in which we are conspicuously lacking' (ANSCOMBE). Discuss.
23. Is there any non-prudential reason to obey an unjust law?
24. 'Frege argued for logicism by trying to reduce arithmetical notions to those already recognized as being logical. A better strategy would have been to argue that the concept of number, because it is universally applicable and governed by topic-neutral rules, is inherently logical even if it is irreducible.' Discuss.
25. Is chemistry reducible to physics?
26. Does teleological explanation have a role in modern biology?
27. Would an orchestra have performed the *Eroica* Symphony if they transposed it down a major third?
28. Is there a cogent argument for the existence of God from the premisses 'God exists of necessity if He exists at all' and 'It is possible that God exists'?
29. What is race?
30. If I am free to do something, must it be possible for me not to do it?
31. 'There is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide' (CAMUS). Discuss.

# PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Are there bad pleasures?
2. Should hate speech be legal?
3. Can a professor truly announce that she will give a surprise examination in one of the remaining six seminars of the term?
4. How should Frege have dealt with Russell's Paradox?
5. 'Freedom is what you do with what has been done to you' (SARTRE). Discuss.
6. Are propositional attitudes well modelled with neighbourhood (SCOTT-MONTAGUE) semantics?
7. Is chemistry reducible to physics?
8. Why does Spinoza's *Ethics* have so much metaphysics in it?
9. What is the relationship between belief and credence?
10. Does it make sense to say that music expresses emotions? If so, whose emotions?
11. What is a number?
12. What is the difference between *phronesis* and *sophia* in Aristotle's ethics?
13. What is a norm of assertion? Are there any?
14. What is the relationship between a statue and the marble it is made of?
15. Is there such a thing as epistemic injustice?
16. When should a mentally ill person be held responsible for their actions?
17. Is a Ramsified scientific theory less ontologically committal than the original scientific theory?
18. Does Kant successfully refute Hume's skepticism?
19. Should it be lawful to convict someone for a crime based on purely statistical evidence?
20. What is the luck-based argument for egalitarianism? Is it good?
21. What does it mean for a speaker to presuppose something? What does it mean (if anything) for a sentence to presuppose something?

[OVER]

22. Do we have a duty to preserve the world for the next generation, and if so, to whom is our duty?
23. Can murder ever be a right action?
24. Does pornography cause or constitute silencing?
25. 'I believe the various disjunctivists have collectively failed to make a single successful point in favour of disjunctivism—or against the natural alternative' (BURGE). Discuss.
26. Zeno worried: 'That which is in locomotion must arrive at the half-way stage before it arrives at the goal.' What exactly is the problem, and how is locomotion nonetheless possible?
27. If you may eat an apple, then does it follow that you may eat an apple or a pear?
28. Is logic descriptive or normative?
29. Can non-human animals have rights?
30. Do perceptual experiences have representational contents?
31. Is economics a predictive science?
32. Does supervenience solve the mind-body problem?
33. Should reparations be paid to the descendants of slaves? If so, by whom?
34. What is paradoxical about Meno's paradox?
35. Lewis (1969) proposed that linguistic communication rests on a convention of truthfulness and trust. Would a convention of untruthfulness and distrust work just as well?
36. Is there such a thing as consistency in one's actions? What is it?
37. Mathematicians have verified the Four Colour Theorem by programming a computer to check a large number of cases. Does such a verification count as a proof?
38. 'We're all born naked, and the rest is drag.' Assess.

## PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. ‘ “If p, q” together with p entails q.’ Assess.
2. ‘No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks’ (WOLLSTONECRAFT). Discuss.
3. If nobody can tell the difference between an original and a copy, is the original or the copy more valuable?
4. What does generative syntax teach us about the mind?
5. Are we the causes of our actions?
6. ‘It may be as Appiah claims that “there is nothing in the world that can do all we ask race to do for us” (Appiah 1992, 45), if our project inevitably inherits the concept’s complex history; but we might instead ask “race” to do different things than have been asked before’ (HASLANGER). Discuss.
7. Does the CPT symmetry of physical laws provide any reason for doubting the objectivity of time’s direction?
8. Does belief require certainty? Does knowledge?
9. Is (physical) disability just a social construction?
10. Which is worse: lying or corroding the true-false distinction?
11. Is it possible to disagree about whether something is tasty? If so, must one person be incorrect?
12. If legal obligations are not moral obligations, then do they have normative force?
13. What are Aristotle’s three kinds of friendship? Is this taxonomy exhaustive?
14. Was Kant a compatibilist?
15. Discuss the benefits or drawbacks of Tarski’s definition of semantic consequence as preservation of truth in all models.
16. Is evolutionary theory fundamentally teleological? If so, is this a problem?
17. What is gaslighting? Does it shed any light on theories of perception or hallucination?
18. What does higher-order vagueness tell us about first-order vagueness?
19. Does subjective experience require self-consciousness?

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20. Does democracy necessarily degenerate into tyranny?
21. Is there a coherent structuralist account of the complex numbers?
22. How should we understand scientific claims about probability, for instance in statistical mechanics or climate modeling?
23. What can an analytic philosopher learn from a continental philosopher?
24. Is the difference between Yablo's Paradox and the Liar Paradox important?
25. Should we be four-dimensionalists or three-dimensionalists?
26. May institutions use affirmative action in admissions? Should they?
27. 'If her functioning as a female is not enough to define woman, if we decline also to explain her through "the eternal feminine," and if nevertheless we admit, provisionally, that women do exist, then we must face the question: what is a woman?' (DE BEAUVOIR). Discuss.
28. What is the value of ideal theory in political philosophy?
29. Where does Berkeley's idealism go wrong?
30. At what point does killing a totalitarian leader become justifiable for a citizen?
31. Do Gödel's incompleteness results (or Turing's uncomputable functions) show that the mind is not well modelled as a computer?
32. Is this a hand I see before me?
33. 'Not only our faults, but our most involuntary misfortunes, tend to corrupt our morals' (HENRY JAMES). Discuss.
34. If A has legitimate authority over B, then are A's reasons for action immediately also B's?
35. What is the role of 'it' in 'If a man owns a donkey, he beats it'?
36. Is it more laudable to do the right thing in accordance with one's desire or despite one's desire?
37. What is imagination?
38. 'A kind of question that doesn't get asked often enough is: what are modal intuitions intuitions of? Consider, for example, the intuition that water is necessarily H<sub>2</sub>O. How do things have to be for it to be right? Or wrong? What's its "truth maker", to use the philosophical jargon?' (FODOR). Discuss.

# PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'I have tried to show that what matters in the continued existence of a person are, for the most part, relations of degree' (PARFIT). Discuss.
2. Could there be causes without laws?
3. If something is possible, is it necessarily possible?
4. Did McTaggart prove that time is unreal?
5. 'Objectivity is the epistemological stance of which objectification is the social process, of which male dominance is the politics, the acted out social practice. That is, to look at the world objectively is to objectify it' (MACKINNON). Discuss.
6. What is the relationship between understanding and knowing?
7. What are the dimensions of the space of reasons?
8. What can a genealogy of knowledge teach us?
9. Should we be Bayesians?
10. Is the golden rule a good guide to morality?
11. What is distinctive about moral disagreement?
12. Were ancient slave-holders bad people?
13. Do we have reasons to love those we love?
14. Does switching from classical logic to intuitionistic logic help in solving the Paradox of the Heap?
15. Is it possible to refute those who deny the Law of Non-Contradiction?
16. Is there an important logical distinction between *all* and *any*?
17. Does indeterminacy of translation imply indeterminacy of sense?
18. Describe how the word 'the' contributes to the meanings of the following statements: 'The tallest man in England is dining alone'; 'The five tallest men in England are dining together'.
19. 'If we could recover our pre-Fregean semantic innocence, I think it would seem to us plainly incredible that the words "The earth moves", uttered after the words "Galileo said that", mean anything different, or refer to anything else, than is their wont when they come in other environments' (DAVIDSON). Discuss.

[OVER]

20. 'To believe that  $P$  is to be prepared to act as if  $P$ , when it matters whether  $P$ .' Discuss.
21. If I order a gin and tonic, and unbeknownst to me the bartender serves me paint thinner on ice, do I have any reason to drink it?
22. Are there non-intentional actions? If so, what distinguishes them from mere bodily movements?
23. Is there any more reason to doubt the existence of  $\sqrt{-1}$  than to doubt the existence of  $\sqrt{2}$ ?
24. Does the Generalized Continuum Hypothesis have a truth-value?
25. Does a scientific explanation raise the probability of what it explains?
26. Is quantum non-locality consistent with the Special Theory of Relativity?
27. How should we individuate biological species?
28. Is liberalism racist?
29. Can we be forced to be free?
30. **EITHER** Which historical philosopher is most misunderstood? **OR** Which historical philosopher exercises too much influence?
31. Did Leibniz believe that this is the best of all possible worlds?
32. **EITHER** Was Hume an idealist? **OR** Was Nietzsche a naturalist?
33. 'Transcendental idealism is deeply attractive. Unfortunately, it is also incoherent.' Discuss.
34. Does music have meaning?

## PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Is any form of relativism coherent?
2. Is there an example of a successful transcendental argument in philosophy?
3. Do you have temporal parts?
4. How radically does the General Theory of Relativity force us to revise our ordinary spatial concepts?
5. Is scepticism irrefutable?
6. Is the Given really a myth?
7. What is it to know how to ride a bike?
8. Is it time to abandon the distinction between internalism and externalism about epistemic justification?
9. 'Ethical claims only answer to other ethical claims.' Is this true?
10. Should we be effective altruists?
11. Can we acquire moral knowledge from testimony?
12. Are desires inconsistent in the same sense in which beliefs are?
13. Must adherents of rival logical schools attach different meanings to the logical connectives?
14. Could convention be the mother of necessity?
15. Is entailment transitive?
16. Is knowing a statement's truth-conditions either necessary or sufficient for knowing what it says?
17. Suppose that 'If Hitler invades England, he will win the war' (said in 1939) lacks a truth-value. Does it follow that 'If Hitler had invaded England, he would have won the war' (said in 2017) also lacks a truth-value?
18. What is the relationship between *langue* and *parole*?
19. What, if anything, unifies surprise, anger, sorrow, disgust, guilt, contempt, amusement and wonder as emotions?

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20. 'Our most basic awareness of ourselves is as performers of actions' (O'BRIEN). Is this true? If so, does it offer the prospect of an illuminating account of self-knowledge?
21. 'Having an experience is surely one good way, and surely the only practical way, of coming to know what that experience is like. Can we say, flatly, that it is the only possible way? Probably not' (DAVID LEWIS). Discuss.
22. Is there a satisfactory logicist account of the real numbers?
23. Are there any infinitesimal quantities?
24. Does it make sense to say that one false scientific theory is closer to the truth than another?
25. What is the best interpretation of probabilities in quantum mechanics?
26. Why is there so little philosophy of chemistry?
27. Is freedom merely the absence of interference?
28. Can there be injustice where no one has done wrong?
29. Are there property rights?
30. Is the distinction between rationalism and empiricism an unhelpful anachronism when writing the history of early modern philosophy?
31. What can we learn from Hegel?
32. 'What we can't say, we can't say, and we can't whistle...either' (RAMSEY). Discuss.
33. Does the advent of speculative realism herald the end of the divide between analytic and continental philosophy?
34. What does the distinction between 'modern' and 'post-modern' amount to?
35. **EITHER** Is philosophy continuous with the sciences? **OR** What is the goal of metaphysics?

# PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Should we be eliminativists about race?
2. Is there moral luck?
3. Is the *de se* simply another mode of presentation?
4. 'There is no answer to the question, "Why not be cruel?" There is no noncircular theoretical backup for the belief that cruelty is horrible.' (RICHARD RORTY) Discuss.
5. What can psychology and/or evolutionary theory teach us about morality?
6. What's wrong with blackmail?
7. Is knowledge first?
8. What is the most effective form of scepticism?
9. 'I know P. Therefore, any evidence against P is misleading and I can disregard it.' Discuss.
10. How can we distinguish kitsch from art?
11. Does the aesthetic value of a work of art relate to the impact it has on our lives?
12. Does implicit bias have philosophical significance?
13. How much does diminishing marginal utility help us justify the value of equality?
14. Do victims have special rights?
15. Is higher-order vagueness paradoxical?
16. What is infinity?
17. How do we best explain epistemic modals?
18. Do propositions have parts?
19. Is there such a thing as weak will?
20. Is introspection a reliable guide to the nature of experience?
21. What are sounds?
22. Has research in neuroscience lead to any advances in the philosophy of mind?

23. What are the weaknesses of four-dimensionalism?
24. Can I survive my own death?
25. ‘The acceptance or rejection of abstract linguistic forms, just as the acceptance or rejection of any other linguistic forms in any branch of science, will finally be decided by their efficiency as instruments, the ratio of the results achieved to the amount and complexity of the efforts required.’ (CARNAP) Discuss.
26. Did Kant have a metaphysics?
27. Was Mill an act utilitarian?
28. What is phenomenology?
29. Is the concept ‘horse’ an object?
30. ‘That every will must consider every other will its equal—would be a principle hostile to life, an agent of the dissolution and destruction of man, an attempt to assassinate the future of man, a sign of weariness, a secret path to nothingness.’ (FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE) Discuss.
31. ‘What makes it so plausible to assume that hypocrisy is the vice of vices is that integrity can indeed exist under the cover of all other vices except this one. Only crime and the criminal, it is true, confront us with the perplexity of radical evil; but only the hypocrite is really rotten to the core.’ (HANNAH ARENDT) Discuss.
32. What is the role of *phronesis* in Aristotle’s ethics?
33. ‘On those who step into the same rivers, different and different waters flow.’ (HERACLITUS) Discuss.
34. How does physics inform metaphysics?
35. Should philosophy be problem orientated?

## PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'The being cannot be termed rational or virtuous, who obeys any authority, but that of reason.' (WOLLSTONECRAFT) Discuss.
2. What is wrong with virtue ethics?
3. Can theories of probability help us in determining whether someone's action was wrong?
4. Is it possible to be in a situation in which, whatever one did, one would act wrongly?
5. Is there a palatable form of moral relativism?
6. What is the point of blame?
7. Is there such a thing as epistemic injustice?
8. What is the aim of belief?
9. Is faith a matter of choice?
10. What's really at stake in the debate between the epistemic internalist and externalist?
11. What can music teach us about the philosophy of art?
12. What could constitute merit for the purpose of distributing goods by merit?
13. Is political philosophy just moral philosophy applied to the political realm?
14. 'Hard cases make bad law.' Discuss.
15. Are there any reasons for accepting the law of excluded middle but rejecting the principle of bivalence?
16. Are axiomatic theories of truth tenable?
17. Is second-order logic just set theory in sheep's clothing?
18. What is representation?
19. Explain the difference between ambiguity, non-specificity and vagueness.
20. What does 'subtract' mean in 'What is left over if I subtract the fact that my arm goes up from the fact that I raise my arm?' (WITTGENSTEIN)?
21. Is pragmatics a wastebasket?

22. What role can chance play in an account of free-will?
23. Can animals experience freedom?
24. Does the notion of acquaintance have any role to play in the philosophy of mind?
25. Can objects be causes?
26. 'The study of semantics is no more exhausted by the claims of analyticity than is the metaphysics of identity exhausted by the claims of necessity.' (KIT FINE) Discuss.
27. Is Kant's account of freedom satisfactory?
28. What is the role of moral education in Kant's moral philosophy?
29. What did Hume, Locke and Berkeley agree about?
30. Was Nietzsche a psychologist?
31. Compare and evaluate Plato's and Aquinas' theories of the soul.
32. What are the pros and cons of Plato's view in the *Republic* on the availability of healthcare?
33. Is Stoic Ethics an advance over Aristotelian Ethics?
34. Why is there so much philosophy of physics and biology and so little philosophy of chemistry?
35. What is the value of the history of philosophy?
36. Can radically different scientific theories talk about the same entities?