



Cambridge Pre-U

PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

9774/02

Paper 2 Topics and Key Texts in Philosophy and Theology 1

October/November 2020

2 hours



You must answer on the answer booklet/paper.

You will need: Answer booklet/paper

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions on **one** topic only.
For your chosen topic:
Answer **both parts** of the question in Section A.
Answer **one** question from Section B.
- If you have been given an answer booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on all the work you hand in.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- At the end of the examination, fasten all your work together. Do **not** use staples, paper clips or glue.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **8** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Choose **one** of Topics 1 to 4.

Answer **two** questions.

You must answer **both** parts of the question in Section A and **one** question from Section B for the Topic you have chosen.

You should divide your time equally between the questions you attempt.

Topic 1 Epistemology

Answer Question 1 **and** either Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Section A

But though our thought seems to possess this unbounded liberty, we shall find, upon a nearer examination, that it is really confined within very narrow limits, and that all this creative power of the mind amounts to no more than the faculty of compounding, transposing, augmenting, or diminishing the materials afforded us by the senses and experience. When we think of a golden mountain, we only join two consistent ideas, *gold*, and *mountain*, with which we were formerly acquainted. A virtuous horse we can conceive; because, from our own feeling, we can conceive virtue; and this we may unite to the figure and shape of a horse, which is an animal familiar to us. In short, all the materials of thinking are derived either from our outward or inward sentiment: The mixture and composition of these belongs alone to the mind and will. Or, to express myself in philosophical language, all our ideas or more feeble perceptions are copies of our impressions or more lively ones.

[Extract from **David Hume**: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section II]

- 1 (a) With reference to this passage, explain Hume's view that all of our ideas derive from sense experience. [10]
- (b) Critically examine Hume's account of the relation between impressions and ideas. [15]

Section B

- 2 'Material things must be definable in terms of sense-contents.' Critically assess Ayer's linguistic phenomenalism. [25]

OR

- 3 To what extent is philosophical doubt a useful tool in the search for knowledge? [25]

Topic 2 Philosophical and Theological Language

Answer Question 4 **and** either Question 5 **or** Question 6.

Section A

What is the relation between verification and falsification?

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Accordingly, the proposition may one day be verified, if it is true, but can never be falsified, if it is false.

[Extract from **Basil Mitchell**: *The Philosophy of Religion*, Chapter III
'Theology and Verification' (John Hick)]

- 4 (a) With reference to this passage, explain Hick's claim that verification and falsification may not be symmetrically related. [10]
- (b) Critically examine Hick's claim that God's existence is, in principle, verifiable. [15]

Section B

- 5 Evaluate the claim that moral judgements are prescriptions that we are prepared to universalise. [25]

OR

- 6 'To be religious is to involve oneself in a form of life with its own language game.' Critically examine this claim. [25]

Topic 3 Philosophy of Religion

Answer Question 7 **and** either Question 8 **or** Question 9.

Section A

Torrance emphatically rejects this idea that natural theology is just a prior preparation for revealed theology, a warming-up exercise before the real action starts.

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Thus a physicist such as Paul Davies, who is notably unsympathetic to conventional religion, can nevertheless write, 'It may be bizarre but in my opinion science offers a surer road to God than religion.'

[Extract from **John Polkinghorne**: *Science and Creation: The Search for Understanding*, Chapter 1]

- 7 (a) With reference to this passage, explain Polkinghorne's support for the view that natural theology is an essential study. [10]
- (b) Evaluate Polkinghorne's claim that the God of the Gaps is dead. [15]

Section B

- 8 'The existence of moral evil, and the suffering it produces, is perfectly consistent with the view that God is both omnipotent and wholly good.' Evaluate this claim. [25]

OR

- 9 'The idea of society is the soul of religion.' Critically examine sociological understandings of religious belief. [25]

Topic 4 New Testament: The Four Gospels

Answer Question 10 **and** either Question 11 **or** Question 12.

Section A

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' ¹⁹ They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' ²⁰ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'

²¹ He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, ²² saying, 'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.'

[Luke 9: 18–22]

- 10 (a)** Examine what this passage contributes to the debate about who Jesus was. [10]
- (b)** 'Understanding what Jesus taught is more important than understanding who Jesus was.' Evaluate this claim. [15]

Section B

- 11** Critically examine the claim that Jesus' relationship with the Pharisees was one of conflict. [25]

OR

- 12** 'The narrative of Jesus' arrest and trial is theological, not historical.' Critically examine this claim. [25]

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