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Philosophy

Higher level

Paper 1

4 May 2023

Zone A morning | **Zone B** afternoon | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer one question.
- Section B: answer two questions, each chosen from a different optional theme.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[75 marks]**.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

Core theme: Being human

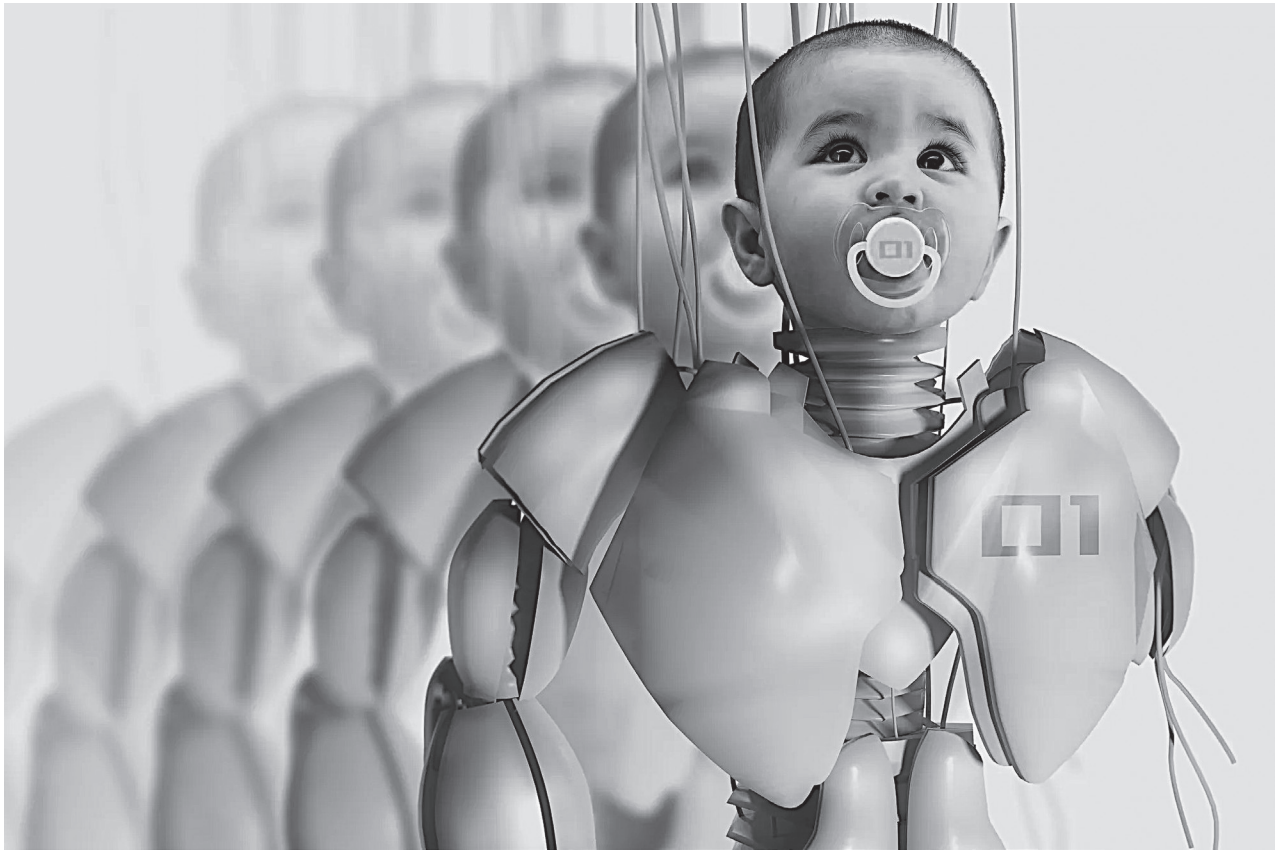
1. Read the following excerpt and develop your response as indicated below.

I was on a work break during this past Spring semester. But how can one truly take a break when there is so much unrest in the world? One key idea about the nature of a break itself became highlighted, that is, that the worth of my life and the worth of your life are not rooted in work or production. Breath running through our bodies means that we are worthy and we are valuable, not due to anything we produce but just because we are people, humans.

I have worth because I am a human being. I don't have to do anything to gain worth. I can just be. Just be me. Unlike the Nike motto says ("just do it"), just *be* it. Just be you. Just be. We are human beings, not human doings.

With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

2. Look at the following image and develop your response as indicated below.



With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section, each chosen from a different optional theme. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

Optional theme 1: Aesthetics

3. Evaluate the claim that works of art are like flowers: we can enjoy them without knowing about soil, air, moisture, and seeds.
4. Evaluate the claim that art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Explain and discuss the role of what other people tell us in knowledge development.
6. To what extent is the world as it appears?

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. To what extent could it be argued that what is best is what is right?
8. Evaluate the claim that moral language has no special basis on which it can be judged to be true or not.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. Evaluate the claim that the power of national culture can be seen as a response to globalization.
10. Evaluate the claim that fake news is a philosophical problem, and not a technical problem.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion

11. Evaluate the view that religious experience provides a motivation for belief.
12. Evaluate the coherence of the characteristics and attributes of God(s).

Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science

- 13. Evaluate the claim that experimentation is the central feature of science.
- 14. Evaluate the view that scientific research should be guided by ethical and social responsibility.

Optional theme 7: Political philosophy

- 15. Evaluate the claim that the state has authority over its citizens in a civil society.
 - 16. Evaluate the claim that promoting the rights of specific groups involves an unacceptable assault on fairness.
-

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References:

1. Powery, L. A., 2020. Just be. *The Chronicle*, [online] Available at: <https://www.dukechronicle.com/article/2020/10/just-be-faith-luke-powery-duke-chapel> [Accessed 20 May 2021]. Source adapted.
2. Cortes, F., n.d. *Child robot*. [image online] Available at: <https://www.shutterstock.com> [Accessed 30 October 2020].