

GENERAL PAPER I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. Is cooperation or competition the driving force guiding the evolution of society?
2. Discuss a concept in a language other than English that should be more widely known or better understood in the English-speaking world.
3. Should gender- and/or colour-blind casting be the norm in the performing arts?
4. Should NATO's policy in Eastern Europe have been different over the last 30 years?
5. Can a non-religious person fully appreciate religious art or literature?
6. What should children be taught about colonialism?
7. Has Britain become a multilingual society?
8. Can historical wrongs ever be righted?
9. Discuss the use and misuse of statistics.
10. Does it matter if a politician lacks integrity?
11. What can we learn from the study of fashion?
12. Can Formula One motor racing be justified in today's world?
13. Should we attempt to preserve biodiversity?
14. Write in praise of suburbia.
15. What determines if an animal product is ethical?
16. Should calories be declared on menus?
17. What separates superstition and faith?
18. What does it mean for Artificial Intelligence to be free from bias?
19. Discuss the role of improvisation in musical performance.
20. Have any new literary genres emerged in this century?

[OVER]

21. Why have e-books not killed print books?
22. Should we deactivate our social media accounts?
23. Should we colonise Mars?
24. Are we in denial about death?
25. What would the world look like without Einstein?
26. Defend whaling.
27. “I thought there was something wrong with the way the departments and majors were organized. Why were the different branches of literature categorized by geography and language, while sciences were categorized by the level of abstraction, or by the size of the object of study? Why wasn’t literature classified by word count? Why wasn’t science classified by country?” (ELIF BATUMAN). Why indeed?

GENERAL PAPER II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. What are the major challenges in cultural heritage protection?
2. 'Fiction does not exist in ancient Greek and Roman literature.' Do you agree?
3. 'Classical Studies is a discipline still in the process of self-defining.' Discuss.
4. Why does the antiquities market still exist?
5. Is studying the history of economics more practically useful than studying the history of chemistry?
6. Do campaigners against inequality care too much about the richest and not enough about the poorest?
7. Does the rapid growth of online meetings and seminars show that their in-person counterparts were over-valued?
8. Is all fiction, or just bad fiction, autobiographical?
9. Can censorship have a beneficial influence on writing?
10. Is tragedy a genre?
11. "Valéry is a petit-bourgeois intellectual, of that there is no doubt. But not every petit-bourgeois intellectual is Paul Valéry" (JEAN-PAUL SARTRE). Discuss.
12. 'The poor are always with us.' Why?
13. Can a society ever be over-educated?
14. Are coastal cities more tolerant than those inland?
15. "And the simple step of a simple courageous man is not to take part in the lie, not to support deceit. Let the lie come into the world, even dominate the world, but not through me" (ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN). Discuss.
16. Should judges be representative of the population?
17. Is the nation-state obsolete?
18. Should a political community be governed in the same way as a family?
19. What is the value in precision?

[OVER]

20. **EITHER:** Does the ability to think presuppose linguistic competence? **OR:** Does linguistic competence presuppose the ability to think?
21. Ought everyone to pursue the most morally valuable career possible for them?
22. “You can’t really change the heart without telling a story” (MARTHA NUSSBAUM). Discuss.
23. Is God gendered?
24. Should universities accept donations from oligarchs?
25. Should strip-searches be banned?
26. Should prisons be abolished?
27. Can a constitution be codified?
28. What is the biggest misconception about your field of study and why does it matter?

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1. Is there something to be said for boredom?
2. Should historical fiction keep to the facts?
3. Are some languages more beautiful than others?
4. Is online learning real learning?
5. Does a religion have to be old?
6. Should the BBC be a subscription service?
7. Why travel?
8. 'Does guilt promote creativity?' (MARTHA NUSSBAUM).
9. Have video referee systems improved sport?
10. 'What would I eliminate if I had a magic wand? Overconfidence' (DANIEL KAHNEMAN). Discuss.
11. Should genetic enhancement of intelligence be explored?
12. Is the gig economy opportunity or exploitation?
13. 'Oppressive language does more than represent violence; it is violence' (TONI MORRISON). Discuss.
14. Vaccine passports: a sensible public health measure or an assault on our liberty?
15. Defend the indefensible.
16. Surveys of life satisfaction suggest that, across the world, happiness declines from the teenage years to middle age and increases thereafter. Why might that be?
17. Will eating animals be condemned by future generations?
18. 'What matters as much to us as the house in which we live is the one next door to it' (ROGER SCRUTON). Discuss.
19. Are older politicians better politicians?
20. Is your belief about evolution based on faith or reason?
21. For how long should wars be memorialized?

[OVER]

22. Can a robot have a gender?
23. Are extrajudicial killings and capital punishment morally equivalent?
24. Does the pandemic have the potential to reshape our relationship to the environment?
25. Does the United Kingdom have an obligation to accept asylum seekers from Iraq?
26. Is all bodily mutilation an unjustifiable assault unless performed on consenting adults?
27. 'Stories are a form of action, the way we insert ourselves into the human world' (HANNAH ARENDT). Discuss.
28. Can a translation be considered original?
29. Are cryptocurrencies the future?
30. 'I never know why self-sacrifice is meant to be noble. Why is it better to sacrifice oneself than someone else?' (IVY COMPTON-BURNETT). Discuss.

GENERAL PAPER II

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1. Did punctuation improve prose?
2. Should there be a *lingua franca* in academia?
3. ‘Our classic, the classic of all Europe, is Virgil’ (so said the American-born T.S. ELIOT). What is the relationship between the field of Classics and Europe?
4. Has feminist history writing become too rosy?
5. Should Schliemann have left Troy in the ground?
6. Should history be rewritten in public spaces?
7. Should any new science be published behind paywalls?
8. How can policy combat algorithmic discrimination?
9. Should former politicians be allowed to act as lobbyists?
10. ‘Great art points in the direction of the good’ (IRIS MURDOCH). Discuss.
11. ‘My heart, the deluded admiral / Who ruled a fleet of never-built ships’ (FERNANDO PESSOA). Discuss the uses and abuses of metaphor.
12. How will historians study the Internet Age?
13. ‘Social science has been outmanoeuvred by literary historicism as the neighbour discipline to which history is most in thrall’ (MARK GOLDIE). Discuss.
14. Write the history of a colour.
15. ‘[M]y friends, even if it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, go on out and sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures; sweep streets like Handel and Beethoven composed music; sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry’ (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.). Discuss.
16. When is it justifiable for a government to instruct citizens to do something that they are not legally required to do?
17. Should judges refrain from publishing personal memoirs?
18. Has Western society put too much faith in competition?
19. Should those whose views are abhorrent be listened to?

[OVER]

20. Nature is replete with suffering. What follows?
21. Is the Turing Test a reasonable criterion for the achievement of general AI?
22. How useful is the law for the achievement of racial **AND/OR** gender justice?
23. Should theorists care about the practical consequences of their theories, or just their truth?
24. Does identity politics undermine class politics?
25. Should we defund the police?
26. '[T]o live in a world in which no one is forgiven, where all are irredeemable, is the same as living in hell' (MILAN KUNDERA). Discuss.
27. 'The habit of considering racism as a mental quirk, as a psychological flaw, must be abandoned' (FRANTZ FANON). How should we conceptualize racism today?
28. 'Extinction Rebellion are fighting for a just cause, but with a misguided strategy.' Discuss.
29. Where do the Benin Bronzes belong?
30. What is the place of humour in scholarship?

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1. Should we bring back woolly mammoths from the dead?
2. What eligibility rules should apply to athletes who are transgender or intersex?
3. What's wrong with the Oscars?
4. Should we give what we can?
5. Does *Homo sapiens* have responsibilities to other species?
6. What, if any, limitations on immigration are defensible?
7. 'The oppressed will always believe the worst about themselves' (FRANTZ FANON). Discuss.
8. Why are conspiracy theories so enduring?
9. If Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandela had died on the same day, whose death should the BBC have reported as its top story?
10. Why teach poetry to children?
11. 'We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology' (CARL SAGAN). Does this matter?
12. Why are top female tennis players so much more prominent than top female footballers?
13. 'To photograph is to confer importance' (SUSAN SONTAG). Discuss.
14. Would it matter if newspapers ceased to be printed?
15. 'Taste is first and foremost distaste, disgust and visceral intolerance of the taste of others' (PIERRE BOURDIEU). Is it?
16. Is it 'colonialist' for the UK to pressure its former colonies to repeal anti-sodomy laws imposed during the period of British rule?
17. Are streaming services good for music?
18. 'We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road. They get run down' (ANEURIN BEVAN). Discuss.
19. Which concept is more fundamental, shape or colour?

[OVER]

20. What should be done to achieve greater take-up of vaccinations?
21. Should more artwork be shredded?
22. Has single-sex education had its day?
23. Can food be both sustainable and affordable?
24. Can a place of worship comfortably function as a museum or heritage site as well?
25. How choosy should charities be about those from whom they accept donations?
26. 'These extreme inequalities that divide us are human-made. May I even say, man-made.' (WINNIE BYANYIMA). Discuss.
27. Which writer, from any period, would be most dismayed by how they are viewed today?

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1. Do ancient and modern slavery differ in nature?
2. '[Female judges'] experience of leading women's lives allows us to see things that the men cannot always see' (BARONESS HALE). Discuss.
3. Is Artificial Intelligence already beyond our control?
4. 'Millions in Africa are poorer today because of aid; misery and poverty have not ended but increased' (DAMBISA MOYO). Discuss.
5. What, if anything, is wrong with neoliberal economics?
6. Should we stop reading authors because of their political views?
7. Has masculinity ever not been 'in crisis'?
8. Is the Anthropocene a useful concept?
9. Should beauty be taxed? Should ugliness be compensated?
10. North Macedonia: what's in a name?
11. In what sense are civil servants servants?
12. Do the methods of philosophy differ fundamentally from those of the natural sciences?
13. Can the history of emotions be more than the history of cultural representations of emotions?
14. What does it mean to live a feminist life?
15. Should Facebook and Google be required to pay money for the information they acquire about people?
16. Does anything justify stripping someone of their citizenship?
17. 'The gendered metaphor of the "faithful" translation, whose worth is always secondary to that of the male-authored original, acquires a particular edge in the context of a translation by a woman [...]' (EMILY WILSON, translator of the *Odyssey*). Discuss.
18. Is the future Asian?
19. What should the geographical and temporal limits of Classics be?

[OVER]

20. Is it useful to categorize writers as e.g. 'Black', 'queer', or 'postcolonial'?
21. Is the justice system just?
22. 'Novels arise out of the shortcomings of history' (NOVALIS). Discuss.
23. Do you own your body?
24. How useful is the analysis of objects from the past in furthering historical understanding?
25. Are there any unanswerable questions?