

GENERAL PAPER I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

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

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

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?