

## GENERAL PAPER I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

1. In the essay version of the Turing test, an examiner decides which of two essays was written by a human and which by a machine. Convince the examiner that you are the human.
2. Is body language a language?
3. Are dreams more like movies or video games?
4. 'Only animals who are below civilization and the angels who are beyond it can be sincere' (W.H. AUDEN). Discuss.
5. Should the UN pass a declaration of rights extending beyond humans?
6. Invent a new punctuation mark!
7. Is the contemporary art market a form of tulip fever?
8. When did the beautiful become the good?
9. Should Job Centres offer opportunities for sex work?
10. Are all asylum seekers equal?
11. Write a dialogue between Socrates and Elon Musk.
12. In a multimedia age, what is the point of zoos?
13. The organ has been considered the king of instruments. Is it?
14. What is the difference between an ideology and a religion?
15. Does a pope matter?
16. 'Mercy has a human face' (WILLIAM BLAKE). Do you agree?

17. Can philosophy help someone who is facing death?
18. Why are most intellectuals left-wing?
19. What do we owe our parents?
20. Is one's life more than the sum of one's days?
21. Has photography deepened empathy 'regarding the pain of others' (SUSAN SONTAG)?
22. Can there be freedom without rules?
23. 'Humans are only fully human beings when they play' (FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER). Discuss.
24. 'Different verbal communities generate different kinds and amounts of consciousness or awareness' (B.F. SKINNER). Do they?
25. Should virtue signalling be encouraged?
26. Defend ghosting.
27. What is regret good for?

## GENERAL PAPER II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

1. Should people care about pronouns?
2. Has democracy had its day?
3. Is there market failure in interdisciplinary academia?
4. 'Much more widespread than the love of truth is the appetite for marvels' (Aldous Huxley). Discuss.
5. 'No exceptions. Where would we be if we began making exceptions? Soon everyone would want to be an exception, and then there would be no rules left, would there?' (J.M. COETZEE).
6. Are high energy physics experiments value for money?
7. 'Sex is the great leveller, taste the great divider' (PAULINE Kael). Discuss.
8. Is Greek literary theory relevant to modern literary analysis?
9. 'I was jealous of her writing ... the only writing I have ever been jealous of' (VIRGINIA WOOLF on Katherine Mansfield). Is there a living author whose writing you are jealous of?
10. 'Imagining what it is like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity' (IAN MCEWAN). Discuss.
11. What cannot be historicised?
12. You get to decide the demographic composition and institutional design of the first Mars colony of 10,000 people. What would it look like and why?
13. When should members of the executive have immunity from legal suit?
14. Are fairy tales fraudulent?
15. Does ghostwriting invalidate the testimony of autobiography?
16. Should we give prizes for academic research?

17. Does the fact that the United States of America has never experienced foreign occupation help us to understand its political culture?
18. Should the publication of potentially looted antiquities be permitted if it contributes to scholarly knowledge?
19. Do we tend to underestimate the value of historical research produced outside of academia?
20. 'It is for the government visibly to respect and protect the independence of the judiciary. Where parties, including the government, disagree with their findings, they should do so through the appellate process.' (LADY CHIEF JUSTICE CARR). Discuss.
21. Is style the last refuge against AI?
22. Is forecasting a realistic possibility in the social sciences?
23. 'There is no document of history that is not also a document of barbarism' (WALTER BENJAMIN). Discuss.
24. Do we really understand ancient literature better than the Victorians did?
25. 'It's the economy, stupid'. Is it though?
26. Should we tax the poor?
27. Can we choose to want?
28. 'In technology, we spend so much time experimenting, fine-tuning, getting the absolute cheapest way to do something – so why aren't we doing that with social policy?' (ESTHER DUFLO).