A-level
PHILOSOPHY
Unit 3 Key Themes in Philosophy

Thursday 9 June 2016 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials
For this paper you must have:
• an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions
• Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
• Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The Paper Reference is PHIL3.
• Answer two questions.
• Choose two sections and answer one question from each section.
• Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information
• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
• The maximum mark for this paper is 100.
• You will be marked on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
Answer two questions.
Choose two sections and answer one question from each section.

Section A: Philosophy of mind

Either

0 1  Assess whether all the features of consciousness can be reduced to the physical.  [50 marks]

or

0 2  Assess whether mental states can cause actions.  [50 marks]

Section B: Political philosophy

Either

0 3  Assess the view that government (the state) is unnecessary.  [50 marks]

or

0 4  ‘The rights of the individual should always take priority over considerations of social utility.’

Discuss.  [50 marks]

Section C: Epistemology and metaphysics

Either

0 5  Assess whether sceptical arguments are successful in showing that we cannot attain knowledge.  [50 marks]

or

0 6  ‘Any claim that cannot be verified by sense experience is meaningless.’

Discuss.  [50 marks]
Section D: Moral philosophy

Either

07 ‘Utilitarianism provides a stronger basis for resolving moral problems than deontology.’ Assess this claim using at least one moral problem of your choice to inform your answer. [50 marks]

or

08 Assess whether it is possible to derive moral truths from natural facts. [50 marks]

Section E: Philosophy of religion

Either

09 ‘Religious language is meaningful because it is part of the religious ‘form of life’.’ Discuss. [50 marks]

or

10 ‘The occurrence of religious experiences makes the existence of God probable.’ Discuss. [50 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS