Philosophy
Distinction Course

General Instructions
• Reading time – 5 minutes
• Working time – 2 hours
• Write using black or blue pen

Total marks – 40
• Attempt Questions 1–4
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Answer each question in a SEPARATE writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Question 1 — Time and Cause (10 marks)
(a) In his article ‘Fate’, Richard Taylor concludes: ‘Was Osmo’s fatalism justified? Of course it was’. Is Taylor right?

OR

(b) David Lewis argues that coherent time-travel allows for affecting the past but not changing it. Why does he make this distinction? Does it save time-travel from incoherence?

Question 2 — Self-concept (10 marks)
(a) If you lost your memory, would you be the same person? Why or why not?

OR

(b) Is there anything more to your self than the social roles you bear?

Question 3 — Mortality, Religion and Happiness (10 marks)
(a) ‘If everyone in Omelas thinks that the treatment of the “wretched child” is morally right, then that is all that there is to the matter.’ Do you agree? Give reasons.

OR

(b) It is often said that without God there can be no genuine morality. Is this claim correct? Give reasons.

Question 4 — Reality and Credibility (10 marks)
(a) Ryle claims that our knowledge of our own minds is no different from our knowledge of others’ minds. What are his reasons for holding this view? Is he right?

OR

(b) Is there a world independent of our experiences? Discuss, making reference to the views of Berkeley, Descartes and other relevant philosophers.

End of paper