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
Question 1 — Time and Cause (10 marks)

(a) Is there a plausible distinction between affecting and changing the past? Discuss with reference to the coherence of ‘the very idea’ of time-travel.

OR

(b) Discuss whether there is a genuine difference between fatalism and determinism. Is the determinist committed to the idea that our choices are ‘predetermined’?

Question 2 — Self-concept (10 marks)

(a) What makes you remain the same person over time? Discuss with reference to the works of Locke and Reid.

OR

(b) Is one’s identity entirely a product of external social forces? Is there anything essential in who we are? Give reasons for your views.

Question 3 — Morality, Religion and Happiness (10 marks)

(a) Divine Command Theory tells us that right and wrong are determined by God’s will. Is this a sufficient account of morality? Discuss with reference to the Euthyphro Dilemma.

OR

(b) Does utilitarianism justify the sacrifice of innocents? If it did so, would this provide grounds for rejecting it as a doctrine? Give reasons for your position.

Question 4 — Reality and Credibility (10 marks)

(a) Does Descartes’ Cogito provide a secure foundation for knowledge? Give reasons for your view.

OR

(b) Berkeley claims that to be is to be perceived. How does he arrive at this conclusion? Is he correct?