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Philosophy

Higher level

Paper 1

3 November 2023

Zone A afternoon | **Zone B** afternoon | **Zone C** afternoon

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer one question.
- Section B: answer two questions, each chosen from a different optional theme.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[75 marks]**.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

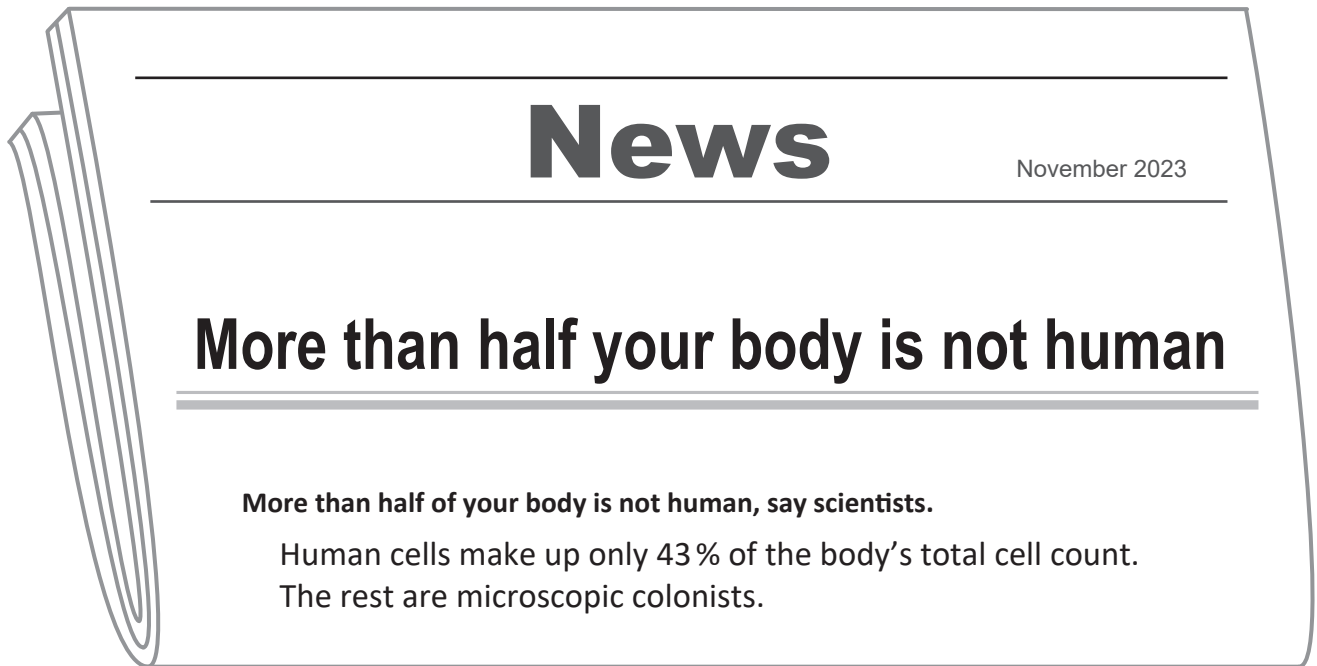
Core Theme: Being human

1. Read the following extract and develop your response as indicated below.

First we counted our steps, then our heartbeats, blood pressure and breathing rates. We monitored our sleep, workouts, periods and fertility. But there is plenty left to measure. High-tech companies now encourage us to monitor everything using smartphones and watches. How much have we lost to the promise of self-improvement - and is it time to stop? Can a person who tracks their steps, sleep and food ever truly be free?

With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

2. Look at the following article and develop your response as indicated below.



With explicit reference to the stimulus and your own knowledge, discuss a philosophical issue related to the question of what it means to be human.

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section, each chosen from a different optional theme. Each question in this section is worth [25 marks].

Optional theme 1: Aesthetics

3. Evaluate the claim that the role of art is to create an emotional response.
4. Evaluate the claim that there is nothing ugly in art except where it offers no inner or outer truth.

Optional theme 2: Epistemology

5. Evaluate the view that knowledge is not objective, but culturally dependent.
6. Discuss the relationship between information technologies and knowledge.

Optional theme 3: Ethics

7. Evaluate the claim that there are no objective values.
8. Evaluate the claim that evil is the result of the egoistic nature of human beings.

Optional theme 4: Philosophy and contemporary society

9. Evaluate the claim that modern technology is changing the nature of relations between humans and the environment.
10. Evaluate the claim that some cultures are better than others.

Optional theme 5: Philosophy of religion

11. Evaluate the claim that the concept of a deity is nothing more than a human invention.
12. Evaluate the claim that it is reasonable to deduce the existence of a god from the fact that the universe appears to be highly ordered.

Optional theme 6: Philosophy of science

- 13. Evaluate the claim that science develops through accumulation and progression.
- 14. Discuss the impact of modern scientific thought on the understanding of nature.

Optional theme 7: Political philosophy

- 15. Evaluate the claim that the best society is one which gives freedom to challenge even basic beliefs.
 - 16. Evaluate anarchism as a credible political position.
-

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References:

1. Usborne, S. "Intimate data: can a person who tracks their steps, sleep and food ever truly be free? *The Guardian*, 5 October 2021. © Guardian News & Media Limited or its affiliated companies.
2. Gallagher, J., 2018. More than half your body is not human. *BBC News*, 10 April 2018. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-43674270> [Accessed 5 October 2021]. From BBC News at [bbc.co.uk/news](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news). Source adapted.

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