



# MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

## 16+ Entrance Exam: **Philosophy**

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Name: .....

Current school: .....

### Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- Answer questions 1 **and** 2. Spend no more than 10 minutes on question 1.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

### Information

- The total mark for this paper is 30.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.

### Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Write your answers neatly and in good English.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

**Total**      \_\_\_\_\_ /30      \_\_\_\_\_ %

Answer questions 1 **and** 2. Spend no more than 10 minutes on Question 1.

1. Read the passage below. Outline its argument in your own words. [10 marks]

The scientific truth about *homo sapiens* is not the whole truth about mankind. We are members of the human species. But we are also persons and, as such, animated through and through by an ideal of what that species might achieve. The concept of the person has no place in biological science, for "person" is not a biological category. Nevertheless it is fundamental to all our legal and moral thinking. The Judeo-Christian tradition would explain the idea of the person in theological terms. But the concept is taken from Roman law (which in turn borrowed it from the theatre: *persona* means mask), and it implies no theological commitment. A person is a potential member of a free community—a community in which members can lead lives of their own. Although other animals are individuals, with thoughts, desires, and characters that distinguish them, human beings are individuals in another and stronger sense, in that they are self-created beings. They realize themselves, through freely chosen projects and through an understanding of what they are and ought to be.

Roger Scruton, 'Animal Rights'

2. Could a computerised robot be morally responsible?

[20 marks]

In your answer, include the following:

- a. Give reasons to support your view **and**
- b. Explain any significant objections to your view **and**
- c. Explain why you think those objections do not, ultimately, undermine your view.