

NST2BBS

Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

**Paper 45: Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine**

You should answer four questions in total; at least one from Section A and at least one from Section B. All questions carry equal weighting.

You should spend no more than three hours on answering all the questions, and a word limit is set of no more than 1,500 words per answer, so no more than 6,000 words for the whole paper.

All your answers for this paper should be submitted in one DOC, DOCX or PDF document. Each answer should be clearly headed with the question number and the question.

Put your Blind Grade Number (BGN) at the start of the document. Do not put your name anywhere in the document.

SECTION A: Philosophy of Medicine

1. The WHO says that health is “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Do you agree?
2. What kind of evidence is needed to infer reliably whether a drug is effective or not?
3. Under what conditions is some physical state a disease?
4. Should medical interventions be protected by patent law?
5. Do Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) measure health?
6. Does taking the perspectives of people with disabilities undermine the utility of measures such as the QALY and DALY?

## SECTION B: Ethics of Medicine

7. Is there anything wrong, morally speaking, with interfering in the human germline?
8. What form of value, if any, attaches to human embryos?
9. What is the therapeutic misconception, and does it pose problems for the ethics of consent?
10. Would it be paternalistic to ban the advertising of alcohol?
11. Can social interactions guarantee objectivity?
12. Can scientific justification be "value-free"? Does this matter?

**END OF PAPER**