

*Choose one of the two questions below:*

### 1 The status of human rights

Even as 'human rights', as a phrase, has become familiar all over the world among scholars and politicians as well as laypeople, there is no full agreement about the exact meaning of the concept or in justifying their status as universal law. Studying meaning and justification involves philosophical as well as empirical inquiries.

Choose at least two different attempts at proving (or disproving) the universal validity of human rights and use at least two empirical examples. Discuss the relative merits of these approaches and draw your own conclusions.

### 2 Human rights in history

In the prologue to his book 'Human Rights in History', Samuel Moyné observes that 'Almost unanimously, contemporary historians have adopted a celebratory attitude toward the emergence and progress of human rights, providing recent enthusiasms with uplifting backstories, and differing primarily about whether to locate the true breakthrough with the Greeks or the Jews, medieval Christians or early modern philosophers...'.

Discuss this claim and its consequences for how to promote and implement human rights across national and cultural boundaries. Use at least two empirical examples (from history or contemporary politics) and conclude with your own view of the matter.