

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL
MAY 2015

SUBJECT: PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER: I
DATE: 12th May 2015
TIME: 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Answer **THREE** questions in all, **ONE** from **EACH** section. Questions carry equal marks.

Section A: Logic

1. (a) Describe two ways in which an elementary assertion can be useful to the one who receives it and accepts it.

(b) Translate symbolically:

- (i) It is not the case that John likes both football and basketball.
- (ii) John likes either football or basketball.
- (iii) John likes one and only one of football and basketball.
- (iv) John likes neither football nor basketball.
- (v) John likes football only if he does not like basketball.
- (vi) Unless John likes football, then he likes basketball.

(c) A and B are formulae containing precisely x and y as primary formulae, such that B and A \leftrightarrow B have the following truth-tables:

x	y	B	A \leftrightarrow B
T	T	T	T
T	F	F	F
F	T	T	T
F	F	F	T

A has then one of four truth-tables. Write down these four truth-tables.

(d) Check whether the following implications are valid:

- (i) $\neg (a \wedge b) < a$
- (ii) $\neg (a \wedge b) < \neg b$
- (iii) $(a \wedge \neg b) < \neg (a \wedge b)$

- (e) Giving a reason for your answers, determine whether:
- (i) is associative
 - (ii) is commutative

(f) Fill in the blanks:

- (i) $A \vee B \equiv \text{_____}$ (de Morgan)
- (ii) $A \wedge B \equiv C \Rightarrow \text{_____} \wedge \text{_____}$ (contraposition)
- (iii) $A \wedge B \equiv C \Rightarrow \text{_____} \wedge \text{_____}$ (transportation)
- (iv) $A \wedge B, \text{_____} \wedge \text{_____}$ (Modus Tollens)
- (v) $A \wedge (B \vee C) \equiv \text{_____}$ (distributivity)
- (vi) $A \vee B, B \vee C \Rightarrow \text{_____}$ (transitivity)

2. (a) How would you introduce the subjunctive () in the language of logic?

- (b) (i) Translate symbolically the following argument and check whether the implication is valid. Give a reason for your answer.

If it rained, Peter used his umbrella. If Peter used his umbrella, then he did not get wet. Therefore if it rained, Peter did not get wet.

- (ii) By which name is the standard implication in (b)(i) known?

(c) Write down two propositions \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} constructed only out of the elementary propositions a, b and c , the junctors \neg , \wedge and \vee , and brackets, and whose truth-tables are as underneath:

a	b	c	\mathcal{A}	\mathcal{B}
T	T	T	F	F
T	T	F	T	F
T	F	T	F	T
T	F	F	F	F
F	T	T	T	F
F	T	F	F	F
F	F	T	F	F
F	F	F	F	T

- (d) (i) What is meant by an interpretation of a formula?
 (ii) What is meant by a model of a formula?
 (iii) For each of the following formulae write down an interpretation which is a model:

$$(I) (a \rightarrow b) \wedge c$$

$$(II) \neg(a \wedge b) \wedge c$$

- (e) (i) Translate the following proposition symbolically:
 If tomorrow it is sunny and I have a day off from work, then I will go to swim.
 (ii) Contraposition states that the implication $(A \wedge B) \rightarrow C \equiv (A \rightarrow C) \wedge \neg B$ is valid. Write down in **words** a proposition which may be concluded from the original proposition by using contraposition.
 (iii) Write down in **words** a proposition which may be concluded from the original proposition by using Transportation.
- (f) Prove the validity of the implication $\neg(a \wedge b) \rightarrow \neg a$ by showing that one cannot assign the value T to the premiss and the value F to the conclusion.
 Fill in the blanks:
 (i) For the conclusion to be F, a must be _____.
 (ii) For the premiss $\neg(a \wedge b)$ to be T, a \wedge b must be _____.
 (iii) If a \wedge b is _____ then a must be _____ and b must be _____.
 (iv) But a cannot be both _____ and _____ in the same implication. This means that the premiss cannot be T and the conclusion F, so there is no counter-interpretation to the implication $\neg(a \wedge b) \rightarrow \neg a$, which is therefore valid.

Section B: Philosophy of Language

3. Write a philosophical essay on **either** (i) the relationship between language and the world **or** (ii) talking about God.
4. Discuss David Cooper’s claim that meaning is not just about words but also concerns our actions within society.

Section C: History of Philosophy

5. Discuss the concept of God with reference to **ONE** Rationalist philosopher and **ONE** Empiricist philosopher of your choice.
 Iddiskuti l-kun ett ta’ Alla b’referenza g al filosfu Razzjonalist **WIE ED** u filosfu Empirist **WIE ED** tal-g a la tieg ek.
6. Outline John Locke’s theory of human nature and its relation to (i) his theory of knowledge and (ii) his political ideas on the social contract.
 Fisser it-teorija ta’ John Locke fuq in-natura umana u r-relazzjoni tag ha ma’ (i) it-teorija tieg u tal-g erf u (ii) l-ideat politi i tieg u fuq il-kuntratt so jali.

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SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	13 th May 2015
TIME:	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Answer **THREE** questions in all, **ONE** from **EACH** section. Questions carry equal marks.

Section A: Ethics

1. Discuss the Existentialist concepts of (i) radical freedom and (ii) bad faith.
2. In what ways are John Finnis' arguments in *Fundamentals of Ethics* influenced by Aristotelian ethics?

Section B: Selected Texts I (Classical and Modern Texts)

3. Explain the term "divine madness" as found in Plato's *Phaedrus*, and show how it is an intermediary between the living and the divine.
4. Comment on the distinction which Aristotle makes in his *Nicomachean Ethics* between voluntary and involuntary actions and explain how they relate to choice.
5. "The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it" (J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*). Discuss.

Section C: Selected Texts II (Contemporary Texts)

6. Outline the concept of the "will" with reference to Gilbert Ryle's *The Concept of Mind*.
7. How does Austin distinguish between illocutionary and perlocutionary acts in his book *How to Do Things with Words*?
8. What is authenticity? How can one live in an authentic way according to Charles Taylor in his book *The Ethics of Authenticity*?
9. Comment on the essay, "The Festive Character of Theatre" in Gadamer's book *The Relevance of the Beautiful and Other Essays*.