MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	1st September 2015
TIME:	9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

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

Section A: Logic

1. (a) By means of an example and in not more than ten lines, explain how it is possible for one to assert a ⊃ b without being able to assert one of a and b.

   (b) Translate symbolically:
   - (i) x is perfect and prime but it is not even.
   - (ii) It is not the case that if x is even then it is prime.
   - (iii) If x is prime then x is perfect but not even.
   - (iv) x is prime only if it is not even.
   - (v) x is prime if and only if it is not even.
   - (vi) x is prime, if it is neither even nor perfect.

   (c) Work out which three of the following five propositions are equivalent to each other.
   - (i) $b \supset \neg a$
   - (ii) $\neg a \supset b$
   - (iii) $a \supset b$
   - (iv) $\neg (a \supset b)$
   - (v) $\neg (\neg a \supset \neg b)$

   (d) X and Y are formulae containing precisely a and b as primary formulae such that X and X ⊃ Y have the following truth-tables:

a	b	X	X ⊃ Y
T	T	T	T
T	F	T	F
F	T	F	F
F	F	T	F

   Y has then one of two truth-tables. Write down these two truth-tables.

(e) (i) Find out by means of a truth-table whether the implication

    (a   b)   c < (a   c)   (b   c) is valid. Give a reason for your answer.

  (ii) State the duality principle.

  (iii) Dualise the implication in (e)(i).

  (iv) Using only the duality principle state whether the answer in (e)(iii) is valid.

(f) Fill in the blanks:

  >< is an equivalence relation, i.e. it is:

  (i)   reflexive   A>< _____

  (ii) symmetric A><B => _____

  (iii) transitive   A><B,, B><C => _____

2. (a) Does the method of constructive logic consist in describing the way that words like 'not', 'and', 'or' etc are used in English?

(b) Translate the following:

  (i)   It is not the case that both Kate and Jane are at work.

  (ii) Neither Kate nor Jane are at work.

  (iii) Either Kate or Jane is at work.

  (iv) At least one of Kate and Jane is at work.

  (v) If Jane is at work then Kate is not.

  (vi) Kate is at work if and only if Jane is.

(c) Giving a reason for your answers, work out whether each of these implications is valid.

  (i) a   b < b   a

  (ii) (a   b)   c < ¬ a   ¬ c

(d) Using truth-tables, determine whether:

  (i)   is associative

  (ii)   is commutative

  (iii)   is distributive over

(e) (i) Translate symbolically the following proposition:

        It is not the case that neither Jane nor Paul was working.

  (ii) Use the appropriate de Morgan's equivalence to simplify the answer to (i).

  (iii) To which one or more of the following propositions does the answer to (ii) correspond?

    (1)   Either Jane or Paul was working.

    (2)   Jane or Paul was working.

    (3)   At least one of Jane and Paul was working.

    (4)   One and only one of Jane and Paul was working.

(f)   Fill in the blanks:
  (i)   A   B,, B   C < _____(transitivity)
  (ii)   A   B,, _____ < _____ (Modus Tollens)
  (iii) ¬ (A   B) >< _____(de Morgan)
  (iv)   (A   B)   C >< _____(transportation)
  (v)   A   B < C => _____(contraposition)

Section B: Philosophy of Language

3.   In what ways is human communication more complex than animal communication?

4.   How does David Cooper approach the question of meaning in his book, *Meaning*?

Section C: History of Philosophy

5.   How do the views of Spinosa and Leibniz offer a response to Descartes' distinction between mind and body?

     B'liema mod il-fehmiet ta' Spinosa u Leibniz joffru risposta g all-ideat ta' Descartes fuq id-distinzjoni bejn ir-ru u l- isem?

6.   Discuss Empiricism with reference to TWO Empiricist philosophers of your choice.

     Iddiskuti l-filosofija Empirista b'referenza g al   EW   filosfi Empiristi tal-g a la tieg ek.

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MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	2nd September 2015
TIME:	9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

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

Section A: Ethics

1. Comment on the main features of **either** (i) Hedonism **or** (ii) Egoism.
2. Analyse John Finnis' account of human nature in relation to his arguments on ethics.

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

3. Which are the reasons Socrates gives in the *Phaedrus*, as to why the written word is inferior to the spoken word?
4. What, according to Aristotle, is "the good for man"? Discuss with reference to the *Nicomachean Ethics*.
5. Outline and discuss the role of the individual in society in J.S. Mill's *On Liberty*.

Section C: Selected Texts II (Contemporary Texts)

6. In his book *The Concept of Mind*, Gilbert Ryle makes reference to "unstudied talk". Discuss.
7. Give an overview of speech act theory as set out by J.L. Austin in his book, *How to Do Things With Words*.
8. Why, according to Charles Taylor in *The Ethics of Authenticity*, is "relativism… a profound mistake"?
9. Highlight the main points in Gadamer's essay "Image and Gesture".