**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA**

**MATRICULATION EXAMINATION**
**ADVANCED LEVEL**
**MAY 2017**

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| **SUBJECT:** | PHILOSOPHY |
| **PAPER NUMBER:** | I |
| **DATE:** | 16th May 2017 |
| **TIME:** | 4.00 p.m. to 7.05 p.m. |

This examination paper has two Sections. Answer both Section A and Section B. Section A carries 30 marks and Section B carries 70 marks. Follow the instructions given in each Section.

## SECTION A: LOGIC AND REASONING

**Answer any THREE questions from Section A. Each question carries 10 marks.**

1. (a) What is meant by saying that an argument is deductive? Give an example of a valid and sound deductive argument. (4)

   (b) Identify the logical fallacy in the following passage and explain briefly the error in the reasoning:

   "You can't believe Mr. Holmes' testimony. He has no social skills and he also took drugs while in college." (4)

   (c) Write down the logical structure of the fallacy. (2)
   **(Total: 10 marks)**

2. (a) Distinguish between (i) Elementary Propositions and (ii) Complex Propositions. (4)

   (b) Express the following propositions symbolically:

      i. It is not the case that neither Jack nor Peter is at school. (1)
      ii. It is not both the case that Jack is at school and Peter is not. (1)
      iii. Jack is at school if and only if Peter and Mary are at school. (1)
      iv. If Jack is at school, then one and only one of Peter and Mary is not at school. (1)

   (c) Using an example, explain what is meant by saying that:
      i. $><$ is symmetrical (1)
      ii. $><$ is transitive (1)
   **(Total: 10 marks)**

3. (a) By translating symbolically and working out the truth-tables, find out whether the two propositions below are logically equivalent:
      i. If Tom passes his exam then he will go camping and he will have a good time.
      ii. If Tom passes his exam then he will go camping and if Tom passes his exam then he will have a good time. (4)

   (b) By which name is the standard equivalence in (a) known? (2)

(c)  Fill-in the blanks:
   i.   a ⊃ (b ⊃ c) >< _____ (Self-Distributive).  (1)
   ii.  a ∨ (b ∨ c) >< _____ (Associative).  (1)
   iii. a ∨ b >< _____ (Commutative).  (1)
   iv.  a ⊃ b ,, _____ < _____ (Modus Tollens).  (1)

**(Total: 10 marks)**

4.  (a)  Explain what is meant by (i) an interpretation of a formula and (ii) a model of a formula.
   (4)

   (b)  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 | T |
| F | T | F | F |
| F | F | F | T |

   Y has then one of four truth-tables. Write down these four truth-tables.  (4)

   (c)  With the help of an example, explain briefly what the bi-subjunctor (a ≡ b) is and state
   the conditions under which it is false.  (2)

**(Total: 10 marks)**


## SECTION B: ETHICS AND SOCIETY

**Answer Question 5 and any other question from this Section.  Each question carries 35 marks.**

5.  Elaborate on the ethical implications brought about by euthanasia in relation to the following:
   i.   Active and passive euthanasia;
   ii.  Physician assisted suicide.

6.  "The art of living well and the art of dying well are one." Discuss this statement by Epicurus in light of his teachings on living a life of pleasure.

7.  For Jean-Paul Sartre, freedom is the central and unique potentiality which constitutes us as human beings. With reference to his existentialist philosophy, what does Sartre mean by 'bad faith' and 'anguish'?

8.  Comment on how privacy is upheld when it comes to personal information on the internet. In your answer include the definition and theory of privacy.

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**ADVANCED LEVEL**
**MAY 2017**

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|---|---|
| **SUBJECT:** | PHILOSOPHY |
| **PAPER NUMBER:** | II |
| **DATE:** | 18th May 2017 |
| **TIME:** | 9.00 a.m. to 12.05 p.m. |

The examination has two Sections. Answer both Section A and Section B. Section A carries 30 marks and Section B carries 70 marks. Follow the instructions given in each Section.

## SECTION A: KEY QUESTIONS IN EUROPEAN THOUGHT

**Compulsory Question**

**Answer Question 1.  The question carries 30 marks.**

1.  "Let us then suppose the mind to be, as we say, white paper, void of all characters, without any ideas; how comes it to be furnished? […] To this I answer, in one word, from experience. […] These two are the fountains of knowledge, from whence all the ideas we have, or can naturally have, do spring:
First, our senses, conversant about particular sensible objects, do convey into the mind several distinct perceptions of things, according to those various ways wherein those objects do affect them: and thus we come by those ideas we have, of yellow, white, heat, cold, soft, hard, bitter, sweet, and all those which we call sensible qualities. […] This great source of most of the ideas we have, depending wholly upon our senses […] I call SENSATION.
Secondly, the other fountain from which experience furnisheth the understanding with ideas, is the perception of the operations of our own mind within us, as it is employed about the ideas it has got; which operations, when the soul comes to reflect on and consider, do furnish the understanding with another set of ideas, which could not be had from things without; and such are perception, thinking, doubting, believing, reasoning, knowing, willing. […] This source of ideas every man has wholly in himself; and though it be not sense, as having nothing to do with external objects, yet it is very like it, and might properly enough be called internal sense. But as I call the other sensation, so I call this REFLECTION."

*(From: John Locke, Essay Concerning Human Understanding, bk II, ch. 1)*

a.   What phrase is usually used to describe Locke's argument that the mind is like "white paper, void of all characters"? (3)

b.   Which phrase in the above passage shows most clearly that Locke is an empiricist? (3)

c.   Outline the main principles of empiricism. (8)

d.   Briefly define rationalism and mention **ONE** rationalist philosopher. (8)

e.   In his *Essay*, Locke distinguishes between 'simple ideas' and 'complex ideas'. What is the difference between them? (8)

## SECTION B

**Choose any TWO questions. Each question carries 35 marks.**

2.  Explain Plato's theory of the Forms and his account of the soul, and how they relate to his idea of the State.

3.  Outline and discuss the main characteristics of personhood.

4.  Explain the Stoics' views on nature, virtue and evil.

5.  Can science prove or disprove the existence of God and of the human mind? Answer with reference to whether knowledge and science may have limits.

6.  "Language is not just about *speaking*, but about *doing*." Discuss this phrase with reference to the theories of J. L. Austin, J. Searle and H. P. Grice.