MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2017

SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	4th September 2017
TIME:	9.00 a.m. to 12.05 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 a logical fallacy? (2)

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

      "If such actions were not illegal, they would not be prohibited by law." (4)

    (c) In your own words, write down another fallacy of the same kind as (b). (4)
    (Total: 10 marks)

2. (a) With the help of an example explain briefly what the disjunctor (a ∨ b) is, and state the conditions under which it is false. (2)

    (b) Work out whether the following implications are valid:
      i.   ¬ b ,, ¬ (a ∨ ¬ b) < a (3)
      ii. (a ∨ ¬ b) < ¬ (a ∧ b) (3)

    (c) Explain briefly what is understood by the term 'equivalence'. (2)
    (Total: 10 marks)

3. (a) What is meant by saying that a proposition is tautological? (2)

    (b) Translate the following symbolically:
      i.   If Sarah went to the beach, then Mary and Tina went to the beach. (1)
      ii. If Mary and Tina did not go to the beach, then Sarah did not go to the beach. (1)
      iii. One and only one of Sarah, Mary and Tina went to the beach. (1)
      iv. Mary and Tina are at the beach if and only if Sarah is at the beach. (1)

    (c) Using truth-tables, work out whether:
      i.   ∨ is commutative (2)
      ii.   ∨ is associative (2)
    (Total: 10 marks)

4. (a) Explain what is meant by (i) Virtual Bi-Location and (ii) Virtual Bi-Temporation. (4)

   (b) Translate the following argument symbolically and check whether the implication involved is valid. Give reasons for your answer.

   "If John does not go out in the evening, then Mary will cook spaghetti. John does not go out in the evening, therefore Mary will cook spaghetti." (4)

   (c) By which name is the standard implication in (b) known? (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. According to Aristotle virtue is the "mean between two vices". Discuss his theory of ethics on the pursuit of virtue and the golden mean in order to achieve self-fulfilment.

6. For Kant "a good will is good not because of what it accomplishes" since one ought to do good for its own sake. Discuss with reference to his theory of moral law.

7. Elaborate on **ONE** of the following reproductive technologies and explain what ethical implications they give rise to:
   i. IVF – ET
   ii. Cloning

8. Comment on what Nietzsche means by a new morality beyond good and evil.

   (Total: 70 marks)

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SEPTEMBER 2017

SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	5th September 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. "[Socrates:] And now, I said, let me show in a figure how far our nature is enlightened or unenlightened: Behold! Human beings living in an underground den, which has a mouth open towards the light and reaching all along the den; here they have been from their childhood, and have their legs and necks chained so that they cannot move, and can only see before them, being prevented by the chains from turning round their heads. Above and behind them a fire is blazing at a distance, and between the fire and the prisoners there is a raised way; and you will see, if you look, a low wall built along the way, like the screen which marionette players have in front of them, over which they show the puppets. […]
At first, when any of them is liberated and compelled suddenly to stand up and turn his neck round and walk and look towards the light, he will suffer sharp pains; the glare will distress him, and he will be unable to see the realities of which in his former state he had seen the shadows. […]
And suppose once more, that he is reluctantly dragged up a steep and rugged ascent, and held fast until he's forced into the presence of the sun himself, is he not likely to be pained and irritated?"

(From: Plato, Republic, bk VII)

   a. Explain how this allegory illustrates Plato's view of reality and our knowledge of it.   (12)

   b. What does this allegory tell us about the theme of education in the *Republic*?   (5)

   c. The allegory of the cave may be considered as a more vivid account of the ideas explained in the analogy of the divided line. What is this analogy?   (8)

   d. How and why do the liberated prisoners represent the philosopher-rulers mentioned elsewhere in the *Republic*?   (5)

SECTION B

Choose any TWO questions. Each question carries 35 marks.

2. Write a philosophical essay on free will and determinism.

3. Discuss the themes of optimism and determinism in Leibniz's philosophy. Why did Voltaire disagree with him?

4. "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains." Discuss Rousseau's views on human nature and society.

5. Give an account of Wittgenstein's contribution to the philosophy of language.

6. Illustrate and explain the difference between rationalism and empiricism.