

# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

#### ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2019 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT: Philosophy

PAPER NUMBER:

DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019
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) "My science teacher says God does not exist. And I am sure he is right! He teaches science after all!"
  - Identify the logical fallacy being committed and explain the error in reasoning. (4)
  - (b) Provide another example of the fallacy identified in (a). (2)
  - (c) Explain the difference between the error in reasoning of the logical fallacies 'Argument from Ignorance' and 'Begging the Question'.

    (4)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 2. (a) Explain what is meant by:
  - i. a deductive argument which is valid and sound; and
- (2) (2)

- ii. a deductive argument which is valid and unsound.
- (b) "I have seen white sheep in England. I have seen white sheep in Switzerland. I have seen white sheep in Italy. Therefore all sheep are white."
  - Identify the logical argument above.

(2)

- (c) Given that:
  - a stands for "John is awake"
  - b stands for "John is at work"
  - c stands for "John is drinking coffee"
  - i. What does  $a \to (b \land c) > < (a \to b) \land (a \to c)$  stand for? (1)
  - ii. Check by means of a truth-table whether the above equivalence is valid. Give reasons for your answer. (3)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 3. a) i. Translate the following:
  - "If Zack is at work, then Jack is at work. Jack is not at work." (1)
  - ii. What conclusion in symbols and in words is derived when applying the rule of inference Modus Tollens to the above translation? (3)
  - b) Work out whether the following implication is valid. Give reasons for your answer.

$$(a \leftrightarrow \neg b) \lor \neg c < (\neg a \rightarrow \neg b) \land c \tag{3}$$

c) Fill-in:

i.  $a < \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  (reflexivity) ii.  $\neg a \rightarrow b$  , (modus ponens) iii.  $a \rightarrow \neg b$  , (modus tollens)

(3)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 4. (a) By making reference to the following statement:
  - "I know that today is Monday because we have logic or we have Maths but I am positive that we don't have Science."
  - i. Identify a negator by writing down the elementary proposition being negated. (2)
  - ii. Identify an adjunctor by writing down the complex proposition it is forming. (2)
  - (b) Write down a formula to show:
    - i. The reflexivity of the equivalence >< (1)
    - ii. The symmetry of the subjunctor  $\rightarrow$  (1)
  - (c) P and Q are formulae (containing precisely X and Y as primary formulae) such that X and X Λ Y gave the following truth-tables.

Р	Q	Χ	ΧΛΥ
Т	T	Т	F
Т	F	F	F
F	Т	Т	Т
F	F	F	F

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

(Total: 10 marks)

#### **SECTION B: ETHICS AND SOCIETY**

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

- 5. "Man is condemned to be free. Condemned, because he did not create himself, yet is nevertheless at liberty, and from the moment he is thrown into this world he is responsible for everything he does" (Sartre, *Existentialism Is a Humanism*). Discuss Sartre's notion of radical freedom in relation to his Existentialist philosophy.
- 6. In the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle states that "the self-indulgent man, then, craves for all pleasant things or those that are most pleasant, and is led by his appetite to choose these at the cost of everything else". In light of this quote, compare and contrast Aristotle's practical ethics to achieve self-fulfilment and Epicurus' practical ethics as pleasure-seeking.
- 7. Elaborate on the principles of autonomy, mercy and harm in relation to the ethical issues of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.
- 8. What is the link between the Overman (Übermensch) and the will to power in Nietzsche's moral philosophy?

(Total: 70 marks)



# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

## ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2019 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT: Philosophy

PAPER NUMBER: II

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 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. "[Glaucon] You have shown me a strange image, and they are strange prisoners.

[Socrates] Like ourselves, I replied; and they see only their own shadows, or the shadows of one another, which the fire throws on the opposite wall of the cave?

[Glaucon] True, he said; how could they see anything but the shadows if they were never allowed to move their heads?

[Socrates] And of the objects which are being carried in like manner they would only see the shadows?

[Glaucon] Yes, he said. [...]

[Socrates] And now look again, and see what will naturally follow if the prisoners are released and disabused of their error. 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 then conceive someone saying to him, that what he saw before was an illusion, but that now, when he is approaching nearer to being and his eye is turned towards more real existence, he has a clearer vision, - what will be his reply? And you may further imagine that his instructor is pointing to the objects as they pass and requiring him to name them, - will he not be perplexed? Will he not fancy that the shadows which he formerly saw are truer than the objects which are now shown to him?
[Glaucon] Far truer.

(From: Plato, Republic, VII)

(3)

- a. What is this passage from Plato's Republic known as?
- b. Explain what happens to the liberated prisoners when they are freed and once they return to the others. (9)
- c. Give an outline of Plato's theory of the forms. (9)
- d. What does this passage and the rest of Book VII tell us about Plato's views on knowledge and education? (9)

### **SECTION B**

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

- 2. How did medieval philosophers (Augustine and Aquinas) address the problem of evil?
- 3. With reference to The Myth of Sisyphus, discuss Camus' views on the meaning of human existence.
- 4. Discuss Rousseau's views on human nature and society.
- 5. Outline and explain the main characteristics of personhood.
- 6. "The epistemological question in modern philosophy was answered along the lines of rationalism and empiricism." Discuss.

(Total: 70 marks)