

# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

#### ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2024 FIRST SESSION

SUBJECT: Philosophy
PAPER NUMBER: I

DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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) Identify the fallacy in the following statement and explain the error in reasoning:
  - "We have to impose harsher laws because crime rates are extremely high, and it stands to reason that imposing stricter laws will lower crime rates." (2)
  - b) With the help of an example, explain the fallacy of "appeal to authority." (4)
  - c) Give the logical structure of the fallacy "appeal to force" and give an example of such a fallacy. (4)

(Total: 10 marks)

2. a) Check whether the following implications are valid. Give a reason for your answer:

i. 
$$a \rightarrow (b \lor \neg c) < (a \land c) \rightarrow b$$
 (2)

ii. 
$$a \wedge (\neg b \rightarrow \neg c)$$
,  $\neg c \wedge b < (a \wedge \neg b) \rightarrow (a \wedge \neg c)$  (2)

- b) In not more than five lines, explain what is meant by saying that a proposition A is equivalent to a proposition B, i.e. that A >< B. (2)
- c) Translate the following propositions symbolically and check whether they are equivalent. Give a reason for your answer.
  - i. If John is at the party, then Mark or Peter is not at the party. (2)
  - ii. If John and Mark are at the party, then Peter is not at the party. (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

Please turn the page.

- 3. a) In not more than ten lines, explain what is meant by an interpretation and a model of a formula. (4)
  - b) Fill in the blanks:

i.  $\wedge$  is associative: \_\_\_\_\_ >< A $\wedge$ (B $\wedge$ C) is valid. (1)

ii.  $\vee$  is self-distributive:  $A\vee(B\vee C)><$  \_\_\_\_\_\_ is valid. (1)

c) The following three premisses are known to be true:

Premiss 1: If John is on leave, then unless he is busy he will go shopping.

Premiss 2: John is on leave.

Premiss 3: John will not go shopping.

- i. Which proposition can be concluded by applying Modus Ponens to the first two premisses?
- ii. Which proposition can be concluded by applying Modus Tollens to the answer to (i) and the third premiss? (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 4. a) Express the truth-table of the subjunctor  $(\rightarrow)$  using only the propositional symbols a,b and the junctors  $\vee$  and  $\neg$ . (2)
  - b) The truth tables of X and X \( \times Y \) are listed below:

а	b	X	$X \vee Y$	
Т	Т	Т	Т	
Т	F	F	F	
F	Т	F	F	
F	F	Т	Т	

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

- c) Translate the following propositions symbolically:
  - i. If John is at the concert, then either Mary or Jack is not at the concert. (1)
  - ii. John and Mary are both at the concert, but Jack is not at the concert. (1)
  - iii. One and only one of John and Jack is at the concert, but Mary is not at the concert. (1)
  - iv. If John and Jack are not at the concert, then Mary is at the concert. (1)

(Total: 10 marks)

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

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

- 5. In his *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle claims that "happiness, then, is found to be something perfect and self-sufficient, being the end to which our actions are directed." Discuss this claim in light of his practical ethics, which is meant to achieve self-fulfilment.
- 6. Discuss the moral implication of reproductive technologies.
- 7. Discuss Epicurus' philosophy regarding his views on death, superstition, and the pleasure-seeking principle.
- 8. The Internet can be misused in many ways. What ethical considerations should be made in this context?

(Total: 70 marks)



# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

#### ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2024 FIRST SESSION

SUBJECT: Philosophy

PAPER NUMBER: I

DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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. All Sisyphus' silent joy is contained therein. His fate belongs to him. His rock is his thing. Likewise, the absurd man, when he contemplates his torment, silences all the idols. ... There is no sun without shadow, and it is essential to know the night. The absurd man says yes and his effort will henceforth be unceasing. ... At the subtle moment when man glances backwards over his life, Sisyphus returning towards his rock, in that slight pivoting he contemplates that series of unrelated actions which becomes his fate, created by him, combined under his memory's eye and soon sealed by his death.

I leave Sisyphus at the foot of the mountain! One always finds one's burden again. But Sisyphus teaches the higher fidelity that negates the gods and raises rocks. He, too, concludes that all is well. This universe henceforth without a master seems to him neither sterile nor futile. Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night-filled mountain, in itself forms a world. The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.

(From: Albert Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus)

а	According to Camu	is how is humai	n existence si	imilar to Sisynhus'	condition?	(10)
a.	According to Carri	ıs, now is numai	I EVISIBILE SI	illillai to Sisybilus	COHUICION:	(10)

b. Discuss Camus' notion of "the absurd man". (10)

c. Why does Camus think that Sisyphus is happy? (10)

(Total: 30 marks)

Please turn the page.

#### **SECTION B**

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

- 2. How does Jean-Jacques Rousseau explain the transformation of human nature from the state of nature to civilised society?
- 3. In what way does Hume challenge the modern epistemological project through his views on science, empiricism, and the self?
- 4. Are all persons human? Discuss in relation to characteristics of personhood and personal identity.
- 5. Discuss the relation between metaphysics and ethics in the philosophy of the Stoics.
- 6. Which debate on language does Plato raise in *Cratylus*? Discuss with reference to how this debate remains relevant in later philosophy of language.

(Total: 70 marks)