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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2024 SECOND SESSION**

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	29th August 2024
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) Translate the following arguments symbolically, and check whether they are valid and sound. Give a reason for your answer.
   i. If John is at the beach, then Mark and Mary will join him. Mark or Mary is not at the beach. Therefore, John is not at the beach. (2)
   ii. If John is at the beach, then Mark and Mary are not at the beach. Therefore, if Mark and Mary are at the beach, then John is not at the beach. (2)

   b) In not more than 5 lines, explain what is meant by saying that a deductive argument is valid and sound. (2)

   c) Translate the following propositions symbolically, and check whether they are equivalent. Give a reason for your answer.
   i. If Mary is playing soccer, then John or Paul is doing housework. (2)
   ii. If Mary is playing soccer and John is not doing housework, then Paul is doing housework. (2)

   (Total: 10 marks)

2. a) Identify the fallacy in the following statement and explain the error in reasoning:

   "Beetlejuice Energy Drink is clearly the best energy drink on the market, since everyone I know seems to prefer it." (2)

   b) With the help of an example, explain the fallacy of "begging the question". (4)

   c) Give the logical structure of the fallacy "argument against the man," and give an example of such a fallacy. (4)

   (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) For **each** of the following formulae, give **ONE** interpretation which is a model:
        i. $a \wedge (\neg b \wedge \neg c)$. (1)
        ii. $\neg(a \vee b) \wedge c$. (1)

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

        Premiss 1: If Petra is at work, then unless John is shopping he is not cleaning.
        Premiss 2: Petra is at work.
        Premiss 3: John is cleaning.

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

(Total: 10 marks)

4. a) Write down **FOUR** propositions (W, X, Y, Z) whose truth-tables are shown below, using only a, b, and c, the logical particles $\wedge$, $\vee$ and $\neg$. (4)

a	b	c	W	X	Y	Z
T	T	T	T	F	T	F
T	T	F	F	F	T	F
T	F	T	F	T	F	F
T	F	F	F	F	F	F
F	T	T	F	F	F	F
F	T	F	F	F	F	F
F	F	T	F	F	F	F
F	F	F	T	F	F	T

    b) For any formula $A \rightarrow B$, $\neg A \rightarrow \neg B$ is its inverse, $B \rightarrow A$ is its converse, and $\neg B \rightarrow \neg A$ is its contrapositive.
        i.   Translate the following proposition symbolically: Unless Robert is busy, he will go to the party. (1)
        ii. In words, give the (1) inverse (2) converse, and (3) contrapositive of the proposition in i. above. (3)

    c) Express the truth-table of the conjunctor $\wedge$ using **only** the propositional symbols a,b and the junctors $\vee$ and $\neg$. (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. Compare and contrast Immanuel Kant's hypothetical and categorical imperatives to the moral theory of Utilitarian ethics.

6. Discuss Nietzsche's insight on the crisis of morality and critically evaluate what he means by a new morality that goes beyond good and evil.

7. "Man is condemned to be free." How does Sartre's concept of radical freedom lead to the creation of value?

8. Give a philosophical account of the Sophists' philosophy about truth and morality by making reference to Protagoras and Gorgias.

(Total: 70 marks)

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	30th August 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.   Some years ago I was struck by the large number of falsehoods that I had accepted as true in my childhood, and by the highly doubtful nature of the whole edifice that I had subsequently based on them. I realized that it was necessary, once in the course of my life, to demolish everything completely and start again right from the foundations if I wanted to establish anything at all in the sciences that was stable and likely to last. ...

But to accomplish this, it will not be necessary for me to show that all my opinions are false, which is something I could perhaps never manage. Reason now leads me to think that I should hold back my assent from opinions which are not completely certain and indubitable just as carefully as I do from those which are patently false. So, for the purpose of rejecting all my opinions, it will be enough if I find in each of them at least some reason for doubt. ...

Whatever I have up till now accepted as most true I have acquired either from the senses of through the senses. But from time to time I have found that the senses deceive, and it is prudent never to trust completely those who have deceived us even once.

Yet although the senses occasionally deceive us with respect to objects which are very small or in the distance, there are many other beliefs about which doubt is quite impossible, even though they are derived from the senses – for example, that I am here, sitting by the fire, wearing a winter dressing-gown, holding this piece of paper in my hands, and so on.

(From: René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, First Meditation)

a.   What is the role of doubt in Descartes' epistemology?   (10)

b.   Is Descartes an empiricist or a rationalist with regard to the question of knowledge? Explain your answer with reference to the above passage.   (10)

c.   Explain the cogito argument and its significance within Descartes' *Meditations*.   (10)

(Total: 30 marks)

Please turn the page.

SECTION B

Choose any TWO questions. Each question carries 35 marks.

2. Compare and contrast Plato's and Aristotle's views on knowledge.

3. How did Voltaire use the novella *Candide* to respond to Leibniz's metaphysics?

4. Thomas Hobbes claims that life in the state of nature is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short. Why does he think so, and what is his political solution to this situation?

5. "When you say you could have had a peach instead of chocolate cake, part of what you mean may be that it wasn't determined in advance what you would do, as it is determined in advance that the sun will rise tomorrow." Discuss this statement by Thomas Nagel in relation to the philosophical questions he discusses in the chapter "Free Will" from *What Does It All Mean?*

6. Discuss the differences in the early and later Wittgenstein's views on language and meaning.

(Total: 70 marks)