

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL
MAY 2014

SUBJECT: PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER: I
DATE: 26th May 2014
TIME: 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Answer **THREE** questions in all, **ONE** from **EACH** section. Questions carry equal marks.

Section A: Logic

1. (a) Distinguish between elementary and complex propositions.
- (b) (i) Express the following proposition symbolically:
If next week strawberries are cheap and I'm not working, then I'll make jam.
- (ii) Contraposition states that the implication form
 $(A \wedge \neg B) \rightarrow C \Leftrightarrow (A \wedge \neg C) \rightarrow B$ is valid.
Write down **in words** a proposition which may be obtained from the proposition given in (b)(i) by using *contraposition*.
- (iii) Write down **in words** a proposition which may be obtained from the proposition given in (b)(i) by using *transportation*.
- (c) X and Y are formulae containing precisely a and b as primary formulae, such that X and $X \vee Y$ have the following truth-tables:

a	b	X	$X \vee Y$
T	T	F	T
T	F	T	T
F	T	F	F
F	F	T	T

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

- (d) Given that for any proposition of the form $A \rightarrow B$,
the inverse is $\neg A \rightarrow \neg B$, the converse is $B \rightarrow A$ and the contrapositive is $\neg B \rightarrow \neg A$,
- (i) translate the following proposition symbolically:
If the weather is hot then Mark will go swimming.
- (ii) give in words the (1) inverse, (2) converse, and (3) contrapositive of the proposition in (d)(i).
- (e) Work out which three of the following five propositions
 $\neg(a \wedge b)$, $a \sqcup b$, $b \wedge \neg a$, $\neg b \wedge a$, and $[(a \wedge \neg b) \vee (\neg a \wedge b)]$ are equivalent to one another.

- (f) The validity of the *Disjunctive Syllogism* $A \vee B, \neg A \vdash B$ can be proved by showing that one cannot assign the value T to each of the premises and the value F to the conclusion simultaneously. Show this by filling in the blanks:
- (i) For the conclusion to be F, **B** must be _____.
 - (ii) For the first premise $A \vee B$ to be T, since **B** is _____, **A** must be _____.
 - (iii) For the second premise $\neg A$ to be T, **A** must be _____.
 - (iv) But **A** cannot be both _____ and _____ in the same implication. This means that the premises cannot be both T and the conclusion F at the same time, so there is no counter-interpretation to the *Disjunctive Syllogism* $A \vee B, \neg A \vdash B$, which is therefore valid.

2. (a) What is meant by virtual bi-location and virtual bi-temporation?

(b) Translate the following propositions symbolically:

- (i) John and Rebecca prepared lunch.
- (ii) Neither John nor Rebecca prepared lunch.
- (iii) It is not the case that both John and Rebecca prepared lunch.
- (iv) Not both John and Rebecca prepared lunch.
- (v) Either John or Rebecca prepared lunch.

- (c) (i) Write down 2 propositions A and B constructed out of the elementary propositions a, b, and c and the logical particles \neg and \wedge and such that the first A is true precisely when a, b and c are true, and the second B is true precisely when a, b and c are false (see truth-tables underneath).
- (ii) Write down a proposition C constructed out of the elementary propositions a, b and c, the logical particles \neg, \wedge and \vee , and brackets, and whose truth-table is as underneath:

a	b	c	A	B	C
T	T	T	T	F	T
T	T	F	F	F	F
T	F	T	F	F	F
T	F	F	F	F	F
F	T	T	F	F	F
F	T	F	F	F	F
F	F	T	F	F	F
F	F	F	F	T	T

(d) Explain what is meant by:

- (i) the implication $A \vdash B$ is valid
- (ii) the equivalence of $A \dashv\vdash B$ is valid

- (e) (i) Using truth-tables, find out whether the implication-form $A \wedge (B \vee C) \vdash (A \wedge B) \vee (A \wedge C)$ is valid. (*Give reasons for your answer.*)
- (ii) State the *Duality Principle*.
 - (iii) Dualise the implication-form in (e)(i)
 - (iv) Using *only* the duality principle, state whether the answer to (e)(iii) is valid.

(f) Fill in the blanks:

- (i) $A < B, B < C \Rightarrow$ _____ is admissible (*transitivity*).
- (ii) $\neg A \vee \neg B \gg \neg(\text{_____})$ is valid (*de Morgan*).
- (iii) $A \quad B \gg \text{_____}$ is valid (*contraposition*).
- (iv) $A \wedge (B \vee C) \gg \text{_____}$ is valid (*distributivity*).

Section B: Philosophy of Language

3. Write a short essay on any **THREE** of the following: (The essays carry equal marks)

- (i) Noam Chomsky's 'Transformational Grammar'
- (ii) sense and reference
- (iii) metaphor
- (iv) speech acts
- (v) aphasia

4. Give an account of the main issues discussed by D.E. Cooper in his book *Meaning*.

Section C: History of Philosophy

5. Compare the views of Spinoza and Leibniz on the concept of substance.

Qabbel il- sibijiet ta' Spinoza u Leibniz fuq il-kun ett ta' sustanza.

6. Explain the main differences between rationalism and empiricism.

Spjega d-differenzi ewlenin bejn ir-razzjonali mu u l-empiri mu.

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SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	27 th May 2014
TIME:	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Answer **THREE** questions in all, **ONE** from **EACH** section. Questions carry equal marks.

Section A: Ethics

1. In *Fundamentals of Ethics*, Finnis analyses the practicality of ethics. Discuss.
2. Outline and discuss the main features of utilitarianism as an ethical theory.

Section B: Selected Texts I (Classical and Modern Texts)

3. Highlight the main points discussed in the *Phaedrus* on (1) the immortality of the soul and (2) the Myth of the Charioteer.
4. “Is it likely that whereas joiners and shoemakers have certain functions or activities, man as such has none, but has been left by nature a functionless being?” How does Aristotle answer this question?
5. Comment on J.S. Mill’s views on the legitimate use of power by the state over the individual.

Section C: Selected Texts II (Contemporary Texts)

6. Discuss Gilbert Ryle’s views on the concept of emotion.
7. In what ways according to J.L. Austin are performative and constative utterances different?
8. In his book, *The Ethics of Authenticity*, Charles Taylor writes about individualism as one of the malaises of modernity. He also suggests solutions to the problem. Outline and discuss these solutions.
9. Expand the main arguments of Gadamer’s essay on ‘Composition and interpretation’.