

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2016

SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	2 nd September 2016
TIME:	9.00 a.m. to 12.05 p.m.

This examination paper has two Sections. Answer both Section A and Section B. Follow the instructions given in each Section.

Section A: LOGIC and REASONING (30 marks)

Answer any three questions from Section A. Each question carries 10 marks.

1. (a) Distinguish between (i) deductive and (ii) inductive arguments. (4 marks)
- (b) Give an example of a valid and sound deductive argument. (2 marks)
- (c) Identify the fallacy in this passage and explain briefly the error in reasoning:

"Dr Christian Muscat has repeatedly claimed in his books that abortion is morally permissible. He has recently won the EU Prize for Literature and the National Book Prize for best novel. He is a smart guy and I support his position." (4 marks)

2. (a) Express the following propositions symbolically:
- It is not the case that John, Mark and Peter are all at work. (1 mark)
 - At least one of John, Mark and Peter is at work. (1 mark)
 - John is at work if and only if Mark and Peter are at work. (1 mark)
 - One and only one of John and Mark is at work if Peter is at work. (1 mark)
- (b) Write down the truth-tables of the formulae $a \wedge b$, $a \vee \neg a$, $a \wedge \neg a$, $a \wedge b$ as underneath:

a	b	$a \wedge b$	$a \vee \neg a$	$a \wedge \neg a$	$a \wedge b$
T	T				
T	F				
F	T				
F	F				

Then re-order the formulae in the sequence $a \wedge b$, $a \vee \neg a$, $a \wedge \neg a$, $a \wedge b$ such that each formula implies every formula on its right. (4 marks)

- (c) Using an example, explain what is meant by saying that:
- \succ is reflexive (1 mark)
 - \succ is transitive (1 mark)

3. (a) Explain briefly how complex propositions are composed. (2 marks)
- (b) Translate symbolically the following argument and check whether the implication involved is valid. Give reasons for your answer.

“If Tom did not go out to walk his dog and Jade did not go out for a jog, then Pam did not meet them. Therefore if Pam met them, then Tom went out to walk his dog and Jade went out for a jog.” (4 marks)

- (c) i. What is meant by an **interpretation** of a formula? (1 mark)
- ii. What is meant by a **model** of a formula? (1 mark)
- iii. For each of the following formulae, write down **one** interpretation which is a model:
- I. $(a \wedge b) \rightarrow c$ (1 mark)
- II. $(a \wedge b) \rightarrow (a \wedge c)$ (1 mark)
4. (a) P and Q are formulae (containing precisely a and b as primary formulae) such that P and Q have the following truth-tables.

a	b	P	Q
T	T	T	F
T	F	F	T
F	T	F	T
F	F	T	T

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

- (b) Work out whether the following propositions are equivalent:
- i. $\neg(a \wedge b) \rightarrow a \wedge b$ (3 marks)
- ii. $(a \wedge b) \rightarrow (b \wedge c) \rightarrow a \wedge c$ (3 marks)

Section B: ETHICS AND SOCIETY (70 marks)

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

5. “Do the ends justify the means?” Answer with reference to Utilitarian ethics.
6. Elaborate on Jean Paul Sartre’s Existentialist concepts of: (i) acting in good faith and (ii) the creation of value.
7. Socrates said, “*There is only one good, knowledge and one evil, ignorance.*” Discuss this statement in relation to moral optimism.
8. Outline the different forms of surrogacy and discuss arguments for and against this method of infertility treatment.

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SUBJECT:	PHILOSOPHY
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	3 rd September 2016
TIME:	9.00 a.m. to 12.05 p.m.

KEY QUESTIONS IN EUROPEAN THOUGHT

Directions to Candidates

The examination has two Sections. Answer both Section A and Section B. Follow the instructions given in each Section.

Section A: Compulsory Question

Answer Question 1. The question carries 30 marks.

1. “Since Descartes, the mind-body problem has taken the following form: how can we account for the relationships between two apparently completely different kinds of things? On the one hand, there are mental things, such as our thoughts and feelings; we think of them as subjective, conscious, and immaterial. On the other hand there are physical things; we think of them as having mass, as extended in space, and as causally interacting with other physical things. Most attempted solutions to the mind-body problem wind up by denying the existence of, or in some way downgrading the status of, one or the other of these types of things. So, most of the recently fashionable materialist conceptions of the mind – such as behaviourism, functionalism, and physicalism – end up by denying, implicitly or explicitly, that there are any such things as minds as we ordinarily think of them. [...]

To summarise: on my view, the mind and the body interact, but they are not different things, since mental phenomena just are features of the brain. One way to characterise this position is to see it as an assertion of both physicalism and mentalism.”

(from John Searle, *Minds, Brains and Science*, in
S.E. Stumpf, *Philosophy: History and Problems*)

- (a) Give a brief account of René Descartes’s dualistic view of the mind and the body. (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss how David Hume reacts to Descartes’s dualism. (6 marks)
- (c) The “fashionable materialist conceptions of the mind” have been applied in theories of language acquisition. Outline, briefly, B.F. Skinner’s behaviourist model and Noam Chomsky’s criticism of it. (6 marks)
- (d) Explain, in a paragraph, Searle’s ‘interactionist’ view on the mind-body problem. (6 marks)

Section B: Choose any 2 questions.

Each question carries 35 marks.

2. Albert Camus writes that “the absurd hero’s refusal to hope becomes his singular ability to live in the present with passion.” How, if at all, can human existence be meaningful?
3. Using the ‘allegory of the cave’ as your guide, outline the main elements of Plato’s philosophy.
4. Science can explain many things but can it explain everything? Discuss.
5. If the phrase “Today is sunny” appears on your computer screen, does it mean that your computer is thinking that it is a sunny day? Discuss.
6. The ‘state of nature’ is one of the key themes in the works of the contractarian philosophers (Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau). How does the view of any TWO of these philosophers on the state of nature influence their political philosophy?