

# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

#### ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2020 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	Philosophy	
PAPER NUMBER:	Ι	
DATE:	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	
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 logical fallacy in the following passage and explain briefly the error in reasoning involved in the passage.
  "Ben tells the teacher that the most recent test should not be counted in the final report. Laura says that Ben only feels that way because he didn't do well on that test. (4)
  - b) Write down the logical structure of the fallacy identified in 1a). (2)
  - c) In your own words provide another example of the fallacy identified in 1a). (4)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 2. a) With the help of an example, explain what is meant by Partial Replacement Rule. (2)
  - b) With reference to the following statement:
    - "Helen enjoys herself if and only if she is with John. However, most of the time, Helen is at home and John is at work."
    - i. Identify a conjunctor by writing the complex proposition it is forming. (2)
    - ii. Identify a bi-subjunctor by writing the complex proposition it is forming. (2)
  - c) Y and Z are formulae (containing precisely a and b as primary formulae) such that Y and Y v Z gave the following truth-tables.

а	b	Y	ΥvΖ	
Т	Т	F	Т	
Т	F	F	F	
F	Т	Т	Т	
F	F	Т	Т	

Z has then one of four truth-tables. Write down these four truth-tables. (4) (Total: 10 marks)

- 3. a) Briefly explain what (i) an elementary proposition and (ii) a complex proposition is. Provide **ONE** example for each. (4) b) Work out whether the bi-subjunctor ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) is self-distributive. Give reasons for your answer. (3) c) Translate symbolically. Use the same letters for each proposition. i. It is not the case that if Mary is at the beach then John is at the beach. ii. Only one of Mary, Jane and John is at the beach. iii. If Mary is at the beach then Jane and John are at work. (3) (Total: 10 marks) 4. a) With the help of an example, explain the rule of Inference: Modus Tollens. (2) b) Work out the truth-tables of the following propositions and identify which are logically equivalent. i. ¬(a⊔b) ii.  $\neg$  (a  $\rightarrow$   $\neg$  b) iii. av¬b iv. ¬ a ↔ ¬ b (5) c) Fill-in: i.  $a \sqcup b > <$  \_\_\_\_\_ (commutativity) ii. a ^ (b v c) >< \_\_\_\_\_ (distributivity)
  - iii.  $a \leftrightarrow (b \leftrightarrow c) > <$  \_\_\_\_\_ (associativity) (3)

(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 the *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 by making reference to his virtue ethics and the concept of the golden mean.
- 6. "Some philosophers have long regarded technology as a dark and oppressive force that menaces our individuality and authenticity". Discuss by making reference to the role of morality in Cyberspace.
- 7. Outline the moral implications brought about by Act and Rule Utilitarianism by making reference to the 'greatest happiness principle'.
- 8. Explain the different forms of surrogacy and discuss the moral and ethical arguments that these give rise to.

(Total: 70 marks)



# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

#### ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2020 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	Philosophy	
PAPER NUMBER:	II	
DATE:	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 7:05 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. "You've grasped my meaning well enough,' I said. 'And please understand that there are four conditions arising in the soul, corresponding to the four sections of the line. Understanding corresponds to the highest section, thinking to the second, belief to the third, and conjecture to the last. Classify them accordingly, believing that the degree of clarity they possess is proportional to the truth possessed by their objects.' [...]

'If we're thinking about the effect of education – or the lack of it – on our nature, there's another comparison we can make. Picture human beings living in some sort of underground cave dwelling, with an entrance which is long, as wide as the cave, and open to the light. Here they live, from earliest childhood, with their legs and necks in chains, so that they have to stay where they are, looking only ahead of them, prevented by the chains from turning their heads. They have light from a distant fire, which is burning behind them and above them. Between the fire and the prisoners, at a higher level than them, is a path along which you must picture a low wall that has been built, like the screen which hides people when they are giving a puppet show, and above which they make the puppets appear."

(From: Plato, Republic, VI, VII)

a.	What is "the line" that Plato refers to in this passage known as?	(2)
b.	Explain Plato's theory of knowledge in relation to "the line".	(6)
с.	Describe the Allegory of the Cave and explain its meaning.	(8)
d.	Outline Plato's theory of the Forms.	(8)
e.	What is the purpose of education according to Plato?	(6)

# SECTION B

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

- 2. Explain how Descartes uses the method of doubt in his theory of knowledge.
- 3. Compare and contrast the political philosophy of Hobbes and Locke, in relation to their ideas on the 'state of nature'.
- 4. Are humans responsible for their actions? Discuss in relation to different views on free will and determinism.
- 5. Explain the main characteristics of personhood.
- 6. Why are language and dialogue important in a democracy?

(Total: 70 marks)