

# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

# ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2023 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	Philosophy

PAPER NUMBER:

DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 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) Explain in detail what a sound argument is by outlining the difference between validity and truth. (4)
  - b) Identify the following fallacy and explain the error in reasoning:
    - "I'm faster than Usain Bolt, you can't prove that I'm not." (3)
  - c) What is an inductive argument? Give an example. (3)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 2. a) In formal logic, what do the terms interpretation and model refer to? (4)
  - b) Given that 'a' is true and 'b' is false, work out the truth-value of  $\neg$  ( $\neg$  a  $\land$  b) (2)
  - c) Check whether the following implications are valid:

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

ii. 
$$\neg b < \neg (\neg a \lor \neg b)$$
 (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 3. a) Find out whether the following proposition is logically true:  $\neg$  (a  $\land$   $\neg$  a)  $\land$  b (2)
  - b) Translate the following symbolically. Identify **each** variable clearly:
    - . It is not the case that if I am right then the Earth is flat. (1)
    - ii. I am right or the Earth is flat. (1)
    - iii. I am right and the Earth is not flat. (1)
    - iv. Neither am I right nor is the Earth flat. (1)

### Question continues on next page.

c) Fill in the blanks:

i.	Modus Ponens:	is valid.	(1)
ii.	Modus Tollens:	is valid.	(1)
iii.	>< is Reflexive:	is valid.	(1)
iv.	< is transitive:	is admissible.	(1)

(Total: 10 marks)

4. a) "Ben is eating fruit but John doesn't want any. John is not hungry."

Identify:

b) Work out the following truth-tables:

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

ii. 
$$(a \land b) \rightarrow (a \lor c)$$
 (2)

c) Translate the following and check whether the implication involved is valid using truth-tables:

"If the dress is not green, it will work. It will not work, therefore the dress is not green." (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. Discuss intention, inclination and the good will within Kantian Ethics.
- 6. Do Protagoras and Gorgias agree in their ethical theories? Discuss.
- 7. Discuss arguments for and against the method of IVF-ET as a form of reproductive technology.
- 8. Can humanity go beyond good and evil? Discuss in relation to Nietzsche's concepts of the will to power and the overman.

(Total: 70 marks)



# MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

#### ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL 2023 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT: Philosophy

PAPER NUMBER: I

DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 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. Man was born free, and everywhere he is in chains. ...

If therefore we set aside everything that is not essential to the social pact, we shall find that it may be reduced to the following terms. Each of us puts his person and all his power in common under the supreme direction of the general will; and we as a body receive each member as an indivisible part of the whole.

Immediately, this act of association produces, in place of the individual persons of every contracting party, a moral and collective body, which is composed of as many members as there are votes in the assembly, and which, by the same act, is endowed with its unity, its common self, its life, and its will. The public person that is formed in this way by the union of all the others once bore the name *city*, and now bears that of *republic* or *body politic*; its members calls it *the state* when it is passive, *the sovereign* when it is active, and a *power* when comparing it to its life. As regards the associates, they collectively take the name of *people*, and are individually called *citizens* as being participants in sovereign authority, and *subjects* as being bound by the laws of the state.

(From: Rousseau, The Social Contract, Book 1, Chapter I & VI)

- a. Explain Rousseau's account of humanity in the state of nature and its transition into the social contract. (10)
- b. Why does Rousseau claim that, although born free, the human "is in chains"? (6)
- c. According to Rousseau, what motivates the human to transition from the state of nature into a social contract? (6)
- d. Based on the above passage, what does Rousseau mean by "the general will"? (8)

(Total: 30 marks)

#### **SECTION B**

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

- 2. Compare and contrast the views of **TWO** philosophers of your choice on the problem of evil.
- 3. Explain how Locke's and Hume's views on knowledge contrast with Descartes' rationalism.
- 4. Critically discuss some characteristics of personhood in relation to humans, non-human animals and machines.
- 5. Discuss the relation between language and culture in light of philosophical debates on linguistic innateness and relativity.
- 6. To what extent are we responsible for our actions? Discuss this question in relation to different views on determinism and free will.

(Total: 70 marks)