

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION LEVEL 2018 FIRST SESSION

SUBJECT: **Philosophy** DATE: 17th May 2018

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 instructions given in each Section.

SECTION A: LOGIC AND REASONING

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

1. a) Complete the following:

i. _____ ><
$$(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow c)$$
 (Self-distribution of \rightarrow) (1)

iv. _____ ><
$$(a \rightarrow b) \leftrightarrow (a \rightarrow c)$$
 (Distributivity of \rightarrow over \leftrightarrow) (1)

b) By means of truth-tables find if the following implications are valid.

i.
$$(a \rightarrow b) \land (a \rightarrow c) < a \rightarrow (b \lor c)$$
 (3)

ii.
$$(a \sqcup b) \lor (b \sqcup c)$$
,, $b < a \leftrightarrow c$ (3)

(Total: 10 marks)

2. a) With reference to the following statement:

Mario is sitting at the table and so is Luigi. Mario likes the food. Luigi does not like it.

Identify:

b) By means of a truth-table find out if the following argument is valid:

i.
$$a \rightarrow (b \sqcup c)$$
,, $a \land \neg c < b$ (3)

c) By means of a truth-table find out if the adjunctor (v) is distributive over the conjunctor (^).(3)

(Total: 10 marks)

3. a) What is the definition of a 'fallacy' in logic?

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(2)

- b) Identify the fallacy in the following passage and explain the error in reasoning involved in this passage:
 - "Don't read books by Thomas Merton. He was a monk." (4)
- c) i. Explain the 'argument from ignorance' fallacy. (2)
 - ii. Give an example of this fallacy. (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

- 4. a) Translate the following statements symbolically:
 - i. If a then b. (1)
 - ii. a or b. (1)
 - iii. Not a. (1)
 - iv. If and only if a then b. (1)
 - b) With the use of truth-tables find out if the following equivalences are valid. Give reasons for your answers.

i.
$$(a \lor b) \leftrightarrow c \lt \lnot c \leftrightarrow \lnot (a \lor b)$$
 (3)

ii.
$$(a \land b) \rightarrow \neg (a \lor b) > \langle (\neg a \land b) \lor (a \lor \neg b)$$
 (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. Stella Jane Young, an Australian comedian, journalist and disability rights activist stated that "the killing of a disabled person is not 'compassionate'. It is not 'euthanasia'. It is murder."

 Discuss and evaluate the moral debate on the issue of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.
- 6. Like all revolutionary technologies, the internet has left a powerful impact on the lives of individual persons and society at large. Discuss and evaluate whether ethics and ethical norms may allow for guidance for an improved way on how to use the internet. Make clear reference to **TWO** ethical theories that can be applied to the digital age.
- 7. Aristotle defines man as a "rational animal". How does this definition form the basis for his understanding of what constitutes a good life? Discuss.
- 8. Should ethical judgements be based on universal principles or should they take into consideration the circumstances and consequences instead? Discuss.