

AM SYLLABUS (2015)

PHILOSOPHY

AM 25

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction

Philosophy deals with some of the most basic questions human beings have asked themselves. Rather than providing easy or ready-made solutions, it encourages those who take it seriously to think about such questions systematically, to discuss them rigorously, to examine what others have said about them, to form considered judgements and derive sound conclusions from well-structured argument.

2. Aims and Objectives

Candidates who sit for the Philosophy examination at Advanced Level should demonstrate that they have acquired the necessary skills to deal confidently with the problems set in the Logic section of the examination. They should also be able to present the main issues of the philosophy of language in a clear light and to discuss the fundamentals of ethics and its different theories. They should be familiar with the main problems raised by modern philosophers (from Descartes to Hume and Rousseau) and show a thorough knowledge of the selected texts, taking a critical stance where necessary.

3. Content

Paper I

Section A. Logic

Vincent Riolo, *An Introduction to Logic* (University of Malta, 1995).

Section B. Philosophy of Language

Either Peter Serracino Inglott, *Peopled Silence* (University of Malta, 1995).

Or David E. Cooper, *Meaning* (Acumen, UK, 2003).

Section C. History of Philosophy

Either Roger Scruton, *A Short History of Modern Philosophy* (London, Routledge, 1989), Chapters 3 to 9; and 14.

Or Joe Friggieri, *In-Nisga tal-Hsieb* Vol II (Media Centre, 2007), Chapters 1 to 11.

Paper II

Section A. Ethics

Either John Finnis, Fundamentals of Ethics (Clarendon, 1983).

Or Gordon Graham, Eight Theories of Ethics (Routledge, 2004).

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

One of the following

Plato, *Phaedrus*.

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I, II, III, IV.

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*.

Section C. Selected Texts II (Contemporary Texts)

One of the following

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* (London, Hutchinson, 1949).

J.L. Austin, *How to Do Things With Words* (ed. J.O. Urmson & Marina Sbisa, OUP, 1976).

Charles Taylor, *The Ethics of Authenticity* (Harvard University Press, 1992).

H.G. Gadamer, *The Relevance of the Beautiful and other essays* (Cambridge University Press, 1986).

4. Assessment Criteria

Candidates will be expected to

- (i) show they have acquired the basic logical skills to work out logical problems;
- (ii) use language clearly, consistently and appropriately;
- (iii) identify and formulate problems philosophically;
- (iv) construct philosophical arguments;
- (v) reflect on the rise and development of modern philosophy;
- (vi) show a critical understanding and appreciation of the set texts.

5. Assessment Scheme

Two three-hour papers are set. Each paper will be divided into three sections. Candidates will be expected to answer three questions in all (from each paper), one from each section. Each question will carry one third of the global mark.