PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 13 November 2006

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)
Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>Number of questions to be answered</th>
<th>Number of marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total 100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied
- Question and answer book of 20 pages, including Assessment criteria.

Instructions
- Write your student number in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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SECTION A – Short answer questions

Instructions for Section A
Answer all questions in the spaces provided. In some cases a single sentence answer may be sufficient for full marks.

Question 1
a. What does Aristotle mean by a final end (or final good)?


3 marks
b. According to Aristotle, what in fact is our final end (or final good)?


2 marks

Question 2
a. According to Epicurus, what is ‘our first and native good’?


2 marks
b. According to Epicurus, why is it ‘better … to accept the legends of the gods than to bow beneath that yoke of destiny which the natural philosophers have imposed’?


3 marks
Question 3


b. i. Identify an example that Sartre uses to illustrate forlornness.

ii. Briefly outline how Sartre uses this example to illustrate forlornness.

1 + 2 = 3 marks

Question 4

a. According to Plato, when the soul takes possession of the body what **one** thing does the soul bring with it?

b. Briefly outline Plato’s argument for the immortality of the soul.

3 marks
Question 5

a. Briefly outline the two ways in which, according to Descartes, animal bodies differ from machines that are made by humans.

b. In what two ways does Descartes think that a machine resembling a human in appearance could easily be distinguished from a real human?
   i. 
   ii. 

The following assessment criteria apply to Section A:

Criterion 1  knowledge of the key elements and historical and philosophical context of the text
Criterion 5  understanding of the relationship between concepts of body and mind and the nature of knowledge
SECTION B – Extended text response short answer questions

Instructions for Section B

Answer three of the following five questions in the spaces provided.
In this section you are required to display more detail and depth of understanding than in Section A; however, an essay type response to any question is not expected. For example, while a concluding sentence may be appropriate depending on the question, an introduction is not necessary.

Question 1

a. i. According to Callicles, how do moral rules such as ‘equality is right’ come about?

ii. In Callicles’ view, what is the relationship of such rules to the teachings of nature?

2 + 2 = 4 marks
b. i. Callicles changes his view on who should rule and then changes it again. State his initial view and his two other views.

ii. Explain how Socrates forces Callicles to change his mind the first time.
c. Apart from Socrates’ response, outline two possible criticisms of Callicles’ appeal to what nature teaches.

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6 marks
Question 2
a.  i. Outline one of Aristotle’s arguments for the conclusion that a life of happiness (eudaimonia) is not a life dedicated to amusement (or pleasant occupations).

ii. Critically evaluate this argument.
b. In your opinion, what role, if any, does amusement play in living a good life? Give reasons to support your answer.

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6 marks
The mistake made by the more refined among them [i.e., the historians of morality] is that they uncover and criticize the perhaps foolish opinions of a people about their morality, or of humanity about all human morality – opinions about its origin, religious sanction, the superstition of free will, and things of that sort – and then suppose that they have criticized the morality itself.

Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*

**a.** Explain why, according to Nietzsche, this is a mistake.

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5 marks

**b.** How then is it possible to criticise a morality from a Nietzschean point of view?

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5 marks
c. To what extent do you think it is possible to criticise a morality? Support your answer with **at least one** example.
Question 4

a. i. Explain what Sartre means by ‘existence precedes essence’.

ii. Outline at least two moral consequences of existence preceding essence, according to Sartre.

b. Who can decide *a priori*? Nobody. No book of ethics can tell him.

Sartre, *Existentialism is a Humanism*

Outline one reason Sartre gives for his claim that no book of ethics will help anyone resolve a moral dilemma, regardless of whether God exists or not. Use an example to illustrate your answer.
c. Does Sartre offer an appropriate guide to the good life today? Give reasons to support your answer.

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6 marks
Question 5

a.  
   i. State the two things required of moral philosophy, according to Murdoch.

   
   ii. For each of these things state why Murdoch believes that thing is important.

   
   2 + 2 = 4 marks

b. Outline the essential elements of Murdoch’s conception of the good life.

   
   5 marks
c. Critically evaluate Murdoch’s conception of the good life.

The following assessment criteria apply to Section B:

Criterion 2 analysis of the central arguments about the good life as developed in the texts
Criterion 3 evaluation of the central arguments about the good life as developed in the texts
Criterion 4 analysis of the relationship of the arguments in the texts to each other, to other traditions of thinking and to contemporary conceptions of the good life
Criterion 8 use of evidence and reasoning to develop arguments and support conclusions

6 marks
Total 45 marks
SECTION C – Essay

Instructions for Section C
Answer one question in the space provided.

Question 1
Explain and critically evaluate the claim that if a computer passed a Turing Test, that would be sufficient evidence that it was thinking.

OR

Question 2
What is the mind? Outline and critically evaluate Armstrong’s response to this question. What implications does Armstrong’s view on the mind have for our conception of ourselves and our place in nature?

OR

Question 3
According to Plato, how do philosophers differ from non-philosophers? Outline and critically evaluate his account. If you wish, include a brief discussion of the Sun, the Line and/or the Cave.

Total 30 marks

The following assessment criteria apply to Section C:

- **Criterion 6**  analysis of arguments about mind, body, knowledge and belief
- **Criterion 7**  evaluation of arguments about mind, body, knowledge and belief
- **Criterion 8**  use of evidence and reasoning to develop arguments and support conclusions
Question 1, 2 or 3