PHILOSOPHY
Written examination

Monday 16 November 2009
Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)
Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

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<th>Section</th>
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- 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 11 pages.

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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Question 1
How useful is Aristotle’s Mean for helping us to live a virtuous life? Justify your response.

3 marks

Question 2
Callicles claims that we only have to look at nature to find evidence that it is right for better people to have a greater share than worse people, and for more capable people to have more than less capable people. Critically evaluate this claim, with some reference to Socrates’ response.

4 marks
Question 3
Is happiness the purpose of morality? Discuss with reference to one of the following: Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Murdoch.

Question 4
Murdoch says her argument (about the Good) rests on two basic assumptions. Identify and critically evaluate one of these assumptions.
Question 1
Note: The philosophers discussed in Question 1 must differ from those discussed in Question 2.

Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche and Murdoch have differing views about the nature of the good life. Critically compare what two of these philosophers might wish to see among the rules on the above sign.
Question 2
Note: The philosophers discussed in Question 2 must differ from those discussed in Question 1.
Outline your own view of the nature of the good life. Include some reference to at least one of the following: Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Murdoch.

5 marks

Question 3
To what extent is a person’s conception of the good life merely a product of the tastes and preferences of his or her society or culture? Give reasons for your response.

4 marks

Total 15 marks
Question 1
Plato holds that the state should be ruled by philosophers because of the knowledge they have. Outline and critically evaluate his case for this view.

5 marks

Question 2
Explain the difference, according to Popper, between science and ‘pseudo-science’. Refer to at least one of his examples of pseudo-science.

3 marks
Question 3
Briefly describe Kuhn’s theory of crisis, using one of his examples.

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3 marks

Question 4
How strong, in your view, is the relationship between science and knowledge? Justify your response.

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4 marks

Total 15 marks
Question 1
Descartes begins his Second Meditation in a ‘deep whirlpool’ in which there seems to be no certainty. By the end of it, however, he has reached some positive conclusions about himself. Outline, and critically evaluate, his arguments for at least two of these conclusions.

OR

Question 2
Armstrong believes that a person is ‘nothing but a physico-chemical mechanism’. Outline and evaluate his arguments for this view, and for the particular version of it which he favours. Include in your essay a discussion of at least one of the following.
   i. how Armstrong addresses the problem of consciousness
   ii. the implications of his position for today’s debates

OR

Question 3
Outline and critically evaluate the materialist (also known as the physicalist) view of the mind. Include in your essay some discussion of Armstrong’s case for materialism and Descartes’ case against it.

Total 15 marks