PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 15 November 2010
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

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<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
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<td>D</td>
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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.
**Question 1**
In the debate with Callicles, Socrates holds that ‘self-discipline makes for greater happiness than self-indulgence’.
Why does he think this? Is his case convincing?

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**Question 2**
‘To say that happiness is the chief good seems a platitude, and a clearer account of what it is is still desired.’ (Aristotle)
Outline and evaluate some elements in Aristotle’s ‘clearer account’ of happiness.
Question 3
Outline and evaluate Nietzsche’s main criticisms of contemporary European morality.

4 marks

Question 4
Murdoch thinks that the advance of science has made life seem ‘self-enclosed and purposeless’. To develop a better view of life, what strategies does she recommend?

3 marks

Total 15 marks
In 1631, England’s royal printers reprinted the Bible but somehow omitted the “not” in *Exodus* 20:14, the seventh commandment concerning adultery. An amusing mistake for everyone but the printers, who were fined £300 and lost their licence, while the Archbishop of Canterbury complained about declining standards among proofreaders.

Yorkshire Anglican priest Tim Jones promulgated* a similar amendment to the eighth commandment, “thou shalt not steal”, in his Christmas sermon. He advised parishioners that it was OK to shoplift if they were desperate – much better than burglary, mugging or prostitution – but they should target big stores that could pass the costs on through slightly higher prices.

Barney Zwartz, *The Age*, 12 January 2010

* suggested

**Question 1**

Critically evaluate how any two of the following would respond to Tim Jones’ advice: Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Murdoch.

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6 marks
Question 2
What do you think about the relationship between leading a good life and stealing? Justify your response.

3 marks

Question 3
In attempting to lead a good life how can we know how we ought to behave, since opinions differ?

6 marks
Total 15 marks
Question 1
At the beginning of his Second Meditation, Descartes wonders whether anything at all can be certain. By the end of it, however, he has reached some positive conclusions about himself. Outline and critically evaluate his argument for one of these conclusions.

Question 2
‘A mental state is a state of the person apt for producing certain ranges of behaviour.’ (Armstrong) Outline and evaluate his argument for this view.
Question 3
Armstrong claims that science provides reasons for rejecting Cartesian dualism.
What case does Armstrong put forward, and how might a dualist such as Descartes dispute his claim?
Who has the stronger case? Justify your opinion.

6 marks
Total 15 marks
SECTION D

Instructions for Section D
Write an essay on one of the following topics.

Question 1
Does science progress towards truth? Discuss with reference to at least two of the following: Plato, Popper, Kuhn.

OR

Question 2
Outline Popper’s distinction between science and ‘pseudo-science’. Evaluate his distinction in the light of at least two of the following examples: Einstein’s relativity, Marx’s theory of history, Freud’s psychoanalysis, Adler’s ‘individual psychology’, Darwinian evolutionary theory.

OR

Question 3
‘When it comes to acquiring knowledge of reality, Plato has too much confidence in our intellectual powers and Kuhn has too little.’ Do you agree?

Total 15 marks