PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 14 November 2011
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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Total 60

• 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.
SECTION A

Instructions for Section A
Answer all four questions.

Question 1
Callicles holds the view that the good life is a life of pleasure.
Outline two of Socrates’ arguments against this view, and critically evaluate one of them.

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4 marks

Question 2
Aristotle acknowledges that the virtuous mean is difficult to find, and that therefore ‘it is no easy task to be good’. At the end of Book II he offers some guidelines to help us.
Outline and briefly evaluate two of these guidelines.

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4 marks
Question 3
What does Nietzsche mean by ressentiment in the set readings? What is its role in ‘slave morality’?

3 marks

Question 4
Weil lists many ‘needs of the soul’. They include order, liberty, equality, punishment and freedom of opinion. Outline and evaluate her account of any two of these five.

4 marks
Total 15 marks
Question 1
What does Nietzsche mean by ‘noble morality’ and ‘slave morality’? How might Socrates respond to Nietzsche’s claim that noble morality is superior?

4 marks
Question 2
Outline and critically compare the views of Aristotle and Weil on the nature of happiness or human fulfilment.

Question 3
What relevance do issues raised in the set extracts from Plato, Aristotle, Nietzsche and Weil have to today’s debates about how we should live? Consider at least one issue and at least two of the set texts.

END OF SECTION B
TURN OVER
Experience has shown us that, hitherto, the frequent repetition of some uniform succession or coexistence has been a cause of our expecting the same succession or coexistence on the next occasion.

And this kind of association is not confined to [humans]; in animals also it is very strong. Domestic animals expect food when they see the person who usually feeds them. We know that all these rather crude expectations of uniformity are liable to be misleading. The man who has fed the chicken every day throughout its life at last wrings its neck instead, showing that more refined views as to the uniformity of nature would have been useful to the chicken.

But in spite of the misleadingness of such expectations, they nevertheless exist. The mere fact that something has happened a certain number of times causes animals and [humans] to expect that it will happen again. Thus our instincts certainly cause us to believe that the sun will rise to-morrow, but we may be in no better a position than the chicken which unexpectedly has its neck wrung.


**Question 1**
Does Hume agree with Russell that we may be in no better a position than the chicken?
Outline and critically evaluate Hume’s case.
Question 2
On Popper’s view, how does scientific thinking differ from the chicken’s? Critically evaluate his account of scientific thinking.

Question 3
How does Kuhn’s account of scientific change differ from inductivism and from Popper’s falsificationism? Illustrate your answer with reference to one of Kuhn’s examples of scientific change.
Question 1
Descartes argues that his knowledge that he is a thinking thing is more certain than his belief that he has a body. Is his argument sound, and does it provide a convincing case for dualism?

OR

Question 2
A robot which behaved just like an intelligent human being would have inner states which caused its behaviour. Would it have a mind? Include some reference to Armstrong in your discussion.

OR

Question 3
Is there an account of the nature of the mind which is superior to both Descartes’ dualism and Armstrong’s materialism?

Total 15 marks