

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
FINAL EXAMINATIONS – JUNE 2005
B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE

PAPER II

Saturday 18 June 2005

9.00a.m. – 12.00noon

Answer any three questions.

Use a **SEPARATE** script for **each** question.

1. In his *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle claims that "every art and every inquiry, every action and choice, seems to aim at some good; whence the good has rightly been defined as that at which all things aim." According to this theological perspective of ethics, what is man's ultimate good?
2. Man is essentially a rational animal, interacting with reality through his senses, and entering into communication through his linguistic abilities. Discuss.
3. Aristotle calls the first philosophers (the Presocratics) "physicists" or students of nature. In what ways were they also philosophers and how did they differ from the mythologists who preceded them?
4. Explain why *Metaphysics* was particularly important in Medieval thought.
5. Discuss fully any one of the first three arguments for the existence of God given by Aquinas in the *Summa Theologica*.
6. Explain how the mendicant orders and the universities affected philosophical activity in the Middle Ages.