

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
FINAL EXAMINATIONS – JUNE 2009
B.A. THEOLOGY AND HUMAN STUDIES COURSE

PAPER II

Monday 22 June 2009

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

Students taking Theology and Philosophy should answer THREE questions: ONE from Section A, ONE from Section C, and the THIRD from either Section A or Section C.

Students taking Theology and any other Humanistic area should answer THREE questions: ONE from Section A, ONE from Section B, and the THIRD from either Section A or Section B.

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

Section A

- 1) We can only sustain our relationship to God, to other people, and to our past, present and future by cultivating the right kind of virtues. Discuss.
- 2) Discuss the relevance of the notion of 'common good' to articulate fully the ethics either of political or of economic activity.
- 3) In a personalist perspective, sexuality is defined as language, and marriage as a community of life and love designed for the responsible procreation of children, even when a couple faces the condition of infertility and seeks help from today's methods of assisted procreation. Discuss.
- 4) The latest Vatican Instruction on bioethics, '*Dignitas Personae*', states that "the dignity of a person must be recognized in every human being from conception to natural death". Discuss.

Section B

- 5) To what extent is our freedom limited by our human nature?
- 6) How would you defend democracy against the claim that it is the tyranny of the majority?
- 7) Outline and discuss Aristotle's analysis of change.
- 8) David Hume claimed that we cannot have an idea without having an impression. What important philosophical consequences did he derive from this doctrine?
- 9) There is frequent talk of the analytic–continental 'divide' in contemporary western philosophy. In what way can this 'divide' be bridged?
- 10) Discuss the philosophy of action inbuilt into the Sanskrit system of Wibhakti.

Section C

- 11) Many in the Church today believe that there is an anti-Church conspiracy in the media. State your position based on an analysis of the media in Malta. Propose a pastoral strategy that the Church could adopt.
- 12) "Are you religious?" The problem is that there are different ways of being religious and although you might be pleased and even honoured to be considered religious in some ways, you would be ashamed and upset to be considered religious in others" (Batson, 155). What do you consider as essential for a mature religious behavior from a psychological perspective?
- 13) "Men, as individuals and as societies, have always endeavoured to understand, predict, influence, and control human behaviour, their own behaviour and that of others" (Rogers, 1959). Discuss.
- 14) "The central drive of ancient Indian Philosophy, its view of the underlying aim of all life's activities, decisions, relationships and commitments, is the attainment of Moksha (*Enlightenment*)." Discuss these ideas with reference to the notion of Brahman, the practice of Meditation, and Shankara's Darshana.
- 15) Is the Gospel of John anti-Jewish? Who are 'the Jews' in John? How should we understand the presumed conflict between the Johannine Community and 'the Jews'?
- 16) Comment on the concept of Messianism in Judaism in the context of its future hope and development throughout history.