

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ASSESSMENT TEST: Semester 2, 2006-2007  
STUDY UNIT: **PHI 1003 Philosophical Anthropology**  
DATE: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
TIME: 16.45-19.45

*Please remember to write your:*

*Surname and Name*

*Question Number*

*on each foolscap.*

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**Answer one question from each section.**  
**Please use a separate foolscap for each answer.**

**Section A: Philosophy of Perception**

1. It seems as if living things are naturally classifiable in terms of their communication possibilities. Discuss.
2. "For most of human history, the senses were our only detection mechanisms for the reality of the external environment." Jillyn Smith. Discuss with reference to any one of the senses.
3. In Kant Empiricism and Rationalism come together. Discuss.

**Section B: Philosophy of Language**

4. A joke, minutely dissected, can provide us with the basic indicators necessary for mapping out the landscape of language. Discuss.
5. Language is a specific human activity. Explain.
6. Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* show up the nonsense of a 'private' language. Discuss.
7. Discuss in some detail any three of the following topics:
  - 7.1 Plato's *Cratylus*
  - 7.2 Linguistics and the Philosophy of Language
  - 7.3 Frege: sense and reference
  - 7.4 Chomsky's Transformational Grammar
  - 7.5 Ferdinand de Saussure

### Section C: Philosophy of Action

8. Is anything left over if I subtract the fact that my arm goes up from the fact that I raise my arm?

9. What is the thesis of determinism? Explain carefully the argument that free will is incompatible with determinism. How could compatibilists reject this argument? Are their replies convincing?

10. In Davidson's famous example, someone alerts a burglar by illuminating a room, which he does by turning on a light, which he does in turn by flipping the appropriate switch. How many actions does such an agent perform and why?