

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ASSESSMENT TEST: Semester 2, 2007-2008
STUDY UNIT: PHI 1003 Philosophical Anthropology
DATE: Tuesday 27th May
TIME: 16.45 – 19.45

Please remember to write your name and surname as well as the question number on each foolscap.

Answer one question from each section.

Please use a separate foolscap for each answer.

Section A: Philosophy of Language

1. “The playful use of language is the most illuminating of all its many and various uses, because the most singular aspect of language – namely its creativity, is most manifest in wit and humour, that is in jokes.” Peter Serracino Inglott in ‘*To joke or not to joke: a diplomatic dilemma in the age of internet.*’ Do you agree with this assertion? Give reasons.
2. What is it that makes language a specifically human medium of communication?
3. How is language related to the world? Answer with reference to at least **two** philosophers with whose work you are familiar.

Section B: Philosophy of Perception

4. “The soul is, so to speak, the first principle of living things. We seek to contemplate and know its nature and substance.” [Aristotle, *De Anima*]. Discuss.
5. Why is perception such an important topic in philosophy? What problems does it raise and how may they be solved?
6. “Kant provided a grand synthesis, a new direction and a whole new mode of doing philosophy.” Discuss.

Section C: Philosophy of Action

7. “This morning I was awakened by someone practising the violin. I dozed a bit, then got up, washed...dressed and went downstairs, turning off the light in the hall as I passed. I poured myself some coffee, stumbling on the edge of the dining room rug, and spilled my coffee as I fumbled for the newspaper”. Some of these items record things I did intentionally; others, things that happened to me. What would be the difference?
8. Can I intentionally do, of my own free will, something which I clearly perceive it would be better not to do, without changing my mind?
9. “An action is the doing of many things”. Discuss, giving examples.