

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS



MAY/JUNE 2009 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 1003 Philosophical Anthropology

Date: Tuesday 9th June 2009

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. Peter Serracino Inglott believes that the analysis of a joke can well serve us to understand the nature of language. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
2. "Language is the defining characteristic of a human being." Discuss.
3. "A theory of language production must be able to account for *both* the existence of conventional elements subject only to determination by agreement of a group, *and* universal features which are imposed on any language just by the objective way the world is made." *Peopled Silence*, p. 76. Discuss.

Section B: Philosophy of Perception

4. In the *De Anima* Aristotle discusses the nature of living things and their different operations. Give a critical account of what he says.
5. "The five senses are the gateway through which we experience everything that happens around us." Discuss.
6. Kant sought to combine the insights of the empiricists and the rationalists, while rejecting the mistakes of both. How exactly did he do it?

Section C: Philosophy of Action

7. Explain the difference between something that merely *happens* to someone – the events one undergoes – and the various things one genuinely *does*.
8. "There are as many actions as there are transitive bodily movements"; "There are as many actions as there are possible descriptions of what is going on". Which, if any, of the two should we accept?
9. In what sense, if any, is there freedom of the will?