



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS
JUNE 2010 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 1006 History of Philosophy

Tuesday 8th June 2010

16.45 – 18.45

NO DICTIONARIES ALLOWED

Answer one question from each section.

Section A: History of Modern Philosophy (50 marks)

1. Trace the steps by which Descartes moves from a position of doubt to one of certainty in his *Meditations*.
2. Compare and contrast the views of Spinoza and Leibniz on substance.
3. Why did Berkeley say that *esse est percipi* (to be is to be perceived)? Was he right?
4. Give a critical account of Hume's analysis of causality.
5. What did Kant's 'Copernican revolution' in philosophy consist in?

Section B: History of Contemporary Philosophy (50 marks)

6. How would you describe Existentialism to someone who had never heard about it? Answer with reference to two Existentialist philosophers of your choice.
7. Compare and contrast the main philosophical views of Hans-Georg Gadamer and Jurgen Habermas.
8. Trace the influence of Wittgenstein's views on Logical Positivism and the philosophy of Ordinary Language.
9. Give a clear account of J.L. Austin's theory of speech acts.