

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF LAWS
LL.B.
YEAR I
JUNE EXAMINATIONS 2005
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Monday 13th June 2005

9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Answer any three questions.

1. "Models of human nature have varied considerably, and each model has radically different implications for how social and political life should be organised." Discuss.
2. How would you argue with those who claim that behind the facade of liberal democracy there lies the permanent power of a ruling elite?
3. All governments seek legitimacy, but on what basis do they gain it, and what happens when their legitimacy is called into question?
4. Liberals claim that to interfere with freedom of expression is simply to violate personal autonomy. Their critics hold that it is necessary to set limits on what people can say in order to protect both the individual and society. Which side of the argument would you support, and for what reasons?
5. Distinguish clearly between formal equality, equality of opportunity and equality of outcome, giving examples to illustrate the differences between them.
6. Should material benefits be distributed according to needs, according to rights or according to deserts? Give reasons for your answer.

Plato 7. ~~How does Plato counter Thrasymachus' claim in the *Republic* that justice is nothing other than the advantage of the stronger, and that it is foolish to be just if one can get away with injustice?~~

Aristotle 8. ~~It has been claimed that Aristotle's classification of political systems is too coarse to apply to today's world. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.~~

Machiavelli ~~Machiavelli is often accused of giving immoral advice to rulers. Critically examine the justice or injustice of this accusation.~~

Hobbes

10. Argue for or against the view that Hobbes unnecessarily sacrificed individual liberty for the sake of collective security and peace.

Locke

11. Discuss Locke's views on the way people acquire the right to private property and on the conditions which rulers must satisfy in order for them to rule legitimately.

Marx

12. Critically examine Marx's claim that political power is merely the organised power of one class for oppressing another.