

University of Malta  
Faculty of Laws  
LL.B. Year I  
PHI 1014 Political Philosophy  
Friday 26 May 2006  
9.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

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Answer any three questions.

1. "Almost all political doctrines and beliefs are based upon some kind of theory of human nature, sometimes explicitly formulated but in many cases simply implied." Discuss, giving examples.
2. How is power transformed into authority, and on what basis can authority be rightfully exercised?
3. Should law try to enforce moral standards? How much freedom should the law allow the individual, and over what issues?
4. Apart from having rights which enable them to make claims against the state, citizens also have duties and obligations. How can a proper balance between the rights and obligations of citizens be reached?
5. How would you argue against those who claim that democracy is the tyranny of the majority?
6. Can the claims of justice enter into conflict with the principle of freedom? Illustrate your answer with examples.
7. "The modern battle about equality is fought not between those who support the principle and those who reject it, but between different views about where and how equality should be applied." Discuss.
8. Does Plato succeed in giving a coherent view of justice in the *Republic*? What kind of picture of the just *polis* or state emerges from Plato's dialogue?
9. "Overall, the political thought of Aquinas no longer depicts the state in negative terms, as a product of human sin. Instead, his adoption of Aristotelian ideas gives the government the important and positive purposes of securing both Christian and secular goals. Politics is not something to be shunned. Rather, it is important to individual and collective moral growth and well-being." Discuss.
10. How does Hobbes describe the state of nature? What is it that motivates human beings to emerge from the state of nature and form civil society?

Discuss Locke's views on: (i) the limits of government; (ii) private property; (iii) the right to revolution in certain circumstances.

"I hope that my readers will excuse my paradoxes; you cannot avoid paradox if you would think for yourself, and, whatever you say, I would rather fall into paradox than prejudice." (Jean-Jacques Rousseau). Discuss one or more of the paradoxes that emerge from Rousseau's political philosophy.

13. How does J.S. Mill revise Bentham's utilitarianism? On what grounds does Mill base his defence of individual freedom?

14. Why did Marx think that "political power, properly so-called, is merely the organised power of one class for oppressing another"? Do you agree with his claim? Give reasons for your answer.