

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF LAW
LL.B. I
PHI1014 – POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
SEPTEMBER 2008 EXAMINATION SESSION

sept
2008

WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

11.45 – 14.45

Answer any three questions

1. What is the difference between political philosophy and political science? Can the study of political philosophy be of any use to the politician? If yes, how? If not, why not?
2. "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." What light does Orwell's famous dictum throw on the unequal distribution of resources in society? Can all inequalities be redressed without injustice?
3. What arguments would you use to rebut the claim that democracy is the tyranny of the majority?
4. Distinguish clearly between negative and positive freedom, and say how freedom is related to toleration.
5. Should material benefits be distributed according to needs, according to rights, or according to merit? Answer giving examples.
6. "Plato never wavers from his contention that the character of a city is determined by the character of its rulers." Discuss, using Plato's examples.
7. "It is possible that Machiavelli's *Prince* is so shocking not so much for what it says but for the way it says it." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
8. "Hobbes's political philosophy is built on just one thing: fear." Do you agree? Give reasons.
9. Discuss Locke's views on (a) government by consent and (b) the right to property.
10. Rousseau says that forcing the minority to go along with the decisions of the majority is forcing them (i.e. the minority) to be free. This is the most famous of Rousseau's paradoxes. What can it possibly mean?
11. "John Stuart Mill is especially keen to destroy the idea that the fact that something is wrong is a good prima facie reason for the state to move against it." Discuss with reference to J.S. Mill's *On Liberty*.
12. "Whereas it is evident that a considerable part of Marx's analysis of capitalist society has stood the test of time, it is also apparent that some of his most basic claims are difficult to defend." Discuss.