

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF LAW
LL.B. I YEARS
MAY/JUNE 2008
PHI1014 - POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

June 2008

DATE: MONDAY 26TH MAY 2008

TIME: 9.15 - 12.15

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 organized." Discuss.
2. "The role of the State is perhaps the dominant theme of party political disagreement, reflecting different views about the proper relationship between the State, civil society and the individual." Outline and examine these views.
3. How is power transformed into authority, and on what basis can authority be rightfully exercised?
4. How much freedom should the law allow the individual, and on what issues? Are there any circumstances in which it may be justified to break the law?
5. What forms of government may reasonably be defined as 'democratic', and why? Can democracy be regarded as an unqualified good?
6. How should material benefits be distributed in order to meet the demands of social justice?
7. "The aim of Plato's *Republic* is to secure the greatest possible well-being for the State as a whole." Discuss.
8. ^{Stoke} "Aristotle has a theoretical ideal for the *polis*, but he is willing to settle for a form of government that is the product of practical reason." Discuss.
9. ^{Machiavelli} "How we live is so far removed from how we ought to live that he who abandons what is done for what ought to be done will learn to bring about his own ruin rather than his preservation." (Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ch. 15). What practical conclusions does Machiavelli derive from this idea?
10. ^{Hobbes} How does Hobbes' materialist philosophy influence his political theory?
11. ^{Locke} In Locke's view, what do people gain and what do they surrender when they leave the state of nature and consent to a social contract?
12. ^{Rousseau} How does Rousseau define the General Will, and how does he distinguish it from "the will of all"? What theoretical and practical problems does Rousseau's doctrine give rise to?
13. "Mary Wollstonecraft's political legacy is significant yet ambiguous." Discuss.
14. How does J.S. Mill, in *On Liberty*, go about defining "the nature and limits of the power which can be legitimately exercised by society over the individual"?
15. Now that "the spectre of Communism" is no longer "haunting Europe", is there anything we can learn from Marx's critique of capitalism?