

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS



MAY/JUNE 2009 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 1014 Political Philosophy

Wednesday 17th June 2009

13.00 – 15.00

Please remember to write your name and surname as well as the question number on each foolscap.

Answer two questions, one from each section.

Section A

1. 'Political obligation' is the phrase used to refer to the duty of the citizen to acknowledge the authority of the state and obey its laws. On what grounds is this duty based and at what point can the citizen be released from it?
2. Does law enforce moral standards, or should it try to? How much freedom should the law allow the individual, and on what issues?
3. '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.
4. Should benefits be distributed according to merit, according to rights, or according to needs? Give reasons for your answer.

Section B

5. Compare and contrast the views of Hobbes and Locke on the 'state of nature' and the formation of civil society.
6. 'Rousseau's *Social Contract* presents some of the loftiest ideals any political philosopher has articulated. At the same time, its ideas have led to some of the lowest of human actions, such as the French Revolution's Reign of Terror.' Discuss.
7. Discuss J.S. Mill's claim that 'the only purpose for which power can rightfully be exercised over any member of the civilized community against his will is to prevent harm to others.'
8. 'The central problem addressed by Marx was human suffering, and its relationship to politics and economics.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.