

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS



MAY/JUNE 2009 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 2003 Metaphysics

Date: Friday 5th June 2009

Time: 16.45 - 19.45

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

Answer any three questions.

1. How appropriate is it to include the study of traditional Metaphysics as an essential element in the formation of a philosopher?
2. Why did Aristotle consider his theory of causality the backbone of his metaphysics?
3. Aristotle was convinced that the theories of Heraclitus and Parmenides showed a flagrant disregard for sense evidence. He therefore formulated the theory of act and potency as a more plausible solution to the problem of being and change. Give a full account of Aristotle's position.
4. Either
 - (a) Explain Aristotle's theory of hylomorphism.
 - Or
 - (b) What is a thing? Answer with reference to Aristotle's views on substance.
5. "To ask: "Who made the universe?" is a perfectly legitimate question. But to ask: "Who made God?" is to show that you have not yet grasped well the concept 'God'." Explain.
6. Taking any **one** recent book or article you have read as your main point of reference, argue whether it is possible to formulate a satisfactory answer to the question: "Why does God permit the existence of so much evil in the world He himself created?"