

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ASSESSMENT TEST: Semester 2, 2005-2006
STUDY UNIT: **PHI 2005 Philosophy of Religion**
DATE: Monday 29th May 2006
TIME: 10.30 – 12.30

*Please remember to write your:
name and surname
and question number
on each foolscap.*

Answer one question from each section.

Please use a separate foolscap for each answer.

Section A: Philosophy of Religion

1. Evaluate philosophically any one kind of argument for the existence of God.
2. The shift in focus from philosophizing about God to philosophizing about religion is fundamentally bound up with the way in which the human being became "that being upon which all beings are grounded as regards the manner of their being and their truth" (Martin Heidegger). Discuss with reference to any modern philosopher.
3. God is not a member of a kind. Nor is God a kind of thing. In what manner can one speak significantly of such a being?

Section B: Islamic Philosophy

4. Describe the rise and development of the philosophical discourse in Islam as well as the movements that influenced it.
5. Explain the meaning of 'metaphysics' as applied by Islamic philosophers and compare the metaphysical ideas of al-Farabi with those of Ibn Sina.
6. *The harm inflicted upon religion by those who defend it in a way not proper to it is greater than [the harm caused by] those who attack it in a way proper to it. As it has been said: "A rational foe is better than an ignorant friend."* What did al-Ghazali mean by this statement and what lay behind his polemic with the philosophers?