



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS
JUNE 2010 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 2005 Philosophy of Religion

Monday 14th June 2010

8.00 – 10.00

NO DICTIONARIES ALLOWED

Answer one question from each section. Use a separate script for each question.

Section A: Philosophy of Religion (50 marks)

1. Must cosmological arguments always use the principle of sufficient reason? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Discuss, critically, the conception of 'God' offered by **either** Baruch Spinoza **or** Immanuel Kant.
3. What kind of 'statement', if any, do religious assertions make? Illustrate giving examples.
4. Explain the difference between the *univocal*, *equivocal* and *analogical* use of language in 'God-talk'. Illustrate your answer with reference to different philosophers.

Section B: Islamic Philosophy (50 marks)

5. Describe intellectual life and activity in medieval Baghdad during the 'Abbâsîd period.
6. Discuss the political thought of Ibn Rushd as found in his Commentary on Plato's *Republic*.
7. Discuss the following statement from Ibn Rushd's *Fasl al-Maqâl*:

"Thus people in relation to Scripture fall into three classes. One class is of those who are not people of interpretation at all: these are the rhetorical class. They are the overwhelming mass, for no man of sound intellect is exempted from this kind of assent. Another class is of the people of dialectical interpretation: these are the dialecticians, either by nature alone or by nature and habit. The third class is of the people of certain interpretation: these are the demonstrative class, by nature and training, i.e., in the art of philosophy (*hikma*). This interpretation ought not to be expressed to the dialectical class, let alone the masses."