L-Università ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 FIRST SESSION

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	12th May 2025
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

This examination paper has **TWO** sections. Answer **BOTH** Section A and Section B. Section A carries 30 marks and Section B carries 70 marks. Follow the instructions given in each section.

SECTION A: LOGIC AND REASONING

Answer any THREE questions from Section A. Each question carries 10 marks.

1. a) Explain what is meant by saying that a proposition A is equivalent to a proposition B. (2)

   b) Translate the following propositions symbolically:

      i. If it is Monday, then Mary is at the university or the gym. (1)
      ii. If it is Monday, then Mary is not at the university and the gym. (1)
      iii. If it is Monday and Mary is not at the university, then she is at the gym. (1)

   c) By working out the truth-tables, check which of the propositions in question (1b) are logically equivalent. (5)

(Total: 10 marks)

2. a) Given that:

   "a" represents "John is at the party."
   "b" represents "Mark is at the party."
   "c" represents "Petra is at the party"

   Write the following formulae in words:

      i. $a \rightarrow (b \sqcup c)$ (1)
      ii. $(a \wedge \neg b) \leftrightarrow \neg c$ (1)
      iii. $a \wedge (b \wedge \neg c)$ (1)
      iv. $\neg a \sqcup (b \vee \neg c)$ (1)
      v. $B \wedge (\neg a \rightarrow c)$ (1)

   b) Explain what is meant by a logically true proposition. (2)

   c) For **each** of the following formulae, work out its truth-table, and identify which one is a logically true proposition: (3)

      i. $(a \wedge b) \vee \neg(a \wedge b)$
      ii. $(a \wedge b) \wedge (\neg a \vee \neg b)$

(Total: 10 marks)

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3. a) Explain the meaning of the term "fallacy." (2)

   b) Identify the fallacy in the following statement and explain the error in reasoning: (4)

   > "Of course, you're free to voice your opinion during the meeting, but just remember that decisions like these can affect how leadership views your loyalty to the team."

   c) Give the structure of the fallacy "appeal to pity" and give an example of such a fallacy. (4)

(Total: 10 marks)

4. a) Explain what is meant by saying that a formula A implies a formula B. (2)

   b) A formula which implies a $\wedge$ b has one of two truth-tables. Write down these truth-tables. (4)

   c) Translate the following propositions symbolically, and check whether the implication involved is valid:

      i. If it is Monday, John is at the cinema or at the spa. It is Monday, but John is not at the cinema. Therefore, he is at the spa. (2)
      ii. If it is Monday, Petra is at school. Petra is not at school. Therefore, it is not Monday. (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

SECTION B: ETHICS AND SOCIETY

Answer Question 5 and any other question from this section. Each question carries 35 marks.

5. Discuss Socrates' belief that a life devoid of self-reflection and critical thinking is essentially meaningless and lacks value.

6. Evaluate Kant's claim that "we can form no system of happiness, except in so far as it is dispensed in strict proportion to morality" (*Critique of Pure Reason*).

7. Elaborate on the moral issues brought about by Utilitarianism's greatest happiness principle and explain the difference between Act and Rule Utilitarianism.

8. Highlight the major moral theories that can be applied in relation to reproductive technologies.

(Total: 70 marks)

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ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 FIRST SESSION

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	13th May 2025
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

The examination has **TWO** sections. Answer **BOTH** Section A and Section B. Section A carries 30 marks and Section B carries 70 marks. Follow the instructions given in each section.

SECTION A: KEY QUESTIONS IN EUROPEAN THOUGHT

Compulsory Question

Answer Question 1. The question carries 30 marks.

1. "So each of you must, when your time comes, descend to where the rest of the community lives, and get used to looking at things in the dark. The point is that once you become acclimatized, you'll see infinitely better than the others there; your experience of genuine right, morality, and goodness will enable you to identify every one of the images and recognize what it is an image of. And then the administration of our community – ours as well as yours – will be in the hands of people who are awake, as distinct from the norm nowadays of communities being governed by people who shadow-box and fall out with one another in their dreams over who should rule, as if that were a highly desirable thing to do. No, the truth of the matter is this: the less keen the would-be rulers of a community are to rule, the better and less divided the administration of that community is bound to be, but where the rulers feel the opposite, the administration is bound to be the opposite. ...

   In fact, political power should be in the hands of people who aren't enamoured of it. Otherwise their rivals in love will fight them for it."

   (From: Plato, Republic, 520c-521b)

a. Why does Plato think the community is "used to looking at things in the dark"? Discuss with reference to Plato's views on epistemology. (10)
b. How does Plato think that the ideal state should be governed? (10)
c. Why does Plato suggest that "political power should be in the hands of people who aren't enamoured of it"? (10)

(Total: 30 marks)

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SECTION B

Choose any TWO questions. Each question carries 35 marks.

2. How do philosophers' views on human nature influence their ideas on the social contract? Discuss in relation to **TWO** social contract theorists.

3. What is the problem of evil? Discuss by making reference to **TWO** philosophers who have engaged with this problem.

4. Epistemology has been a core concern in modern philosophy. Discuss this statement in relation to **ONE** rationalist and **ONE** empiricist philosopher.

5. Explain the 'Private Language Argument' and contextualise it within Wittgenstein's philosophy of language.

6. Could a machine think? Engage with this question by referring to the Chinese Room Argument.

(Total: 70 marks)