L-Università ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	29th August 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 implies a proposition B. (2)

   b) Translate the following propositions symbolically, and work out their truth tables:
   i. If John is doing the dishes, then Pete is cleaning and Ben is cooking. (2)
   ii. If Ben is not cooking or John is doing the dishes, then Pete is cleaning. (2)
   iii. If John is doing the dishes or Pete is not cleaning, Ben is cooking. (2)

   c) Does b)i. above imply b)ii.? Give a reason for your answer. (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

2. a) Write down **THREE** propositions (X, Y, Z) whose truth-tables are shown below, using only a, b, and the logical junctors $\wedge$, $\vee$ and $\neg$. (3)

a	b	X	Y	Z
T	T	T	F	F
T	F	F	F	T
F	T	T	T	F
F	F	F	F	F

   b) For any formula $a \rightarrow b$, $\neg a \rightarrow \neg b$ is its inverse, $b \rightarrow a$ is its converse, and $\neg b \rightarrow \neg a$ is its contrapositive.
   i. Translate the following proposition symbolically: If John is not swimming, then Paul is not fishing. (1)
   ii. In words, give the inverse, converse, and contrapositive of the proposition in b)i. above. (3)

   c) Express the truth-table of the adjunctor ($\vee$) using only the propositional symbols a, b and the junctors $\wedge$ and $\neg$. (3)

(Total: 10 marks)

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

   b) Translate the following propositions symbolically: (4)
      i. If it is Monday, John is at the store.
      ii. If it is not Monday, John is not at the store.
      iii. If John is at the store, then it is Monday.
      iv. It is not Monday or John is at the store.

   c) By working out the truth-tables, check which propositions in question 3(b) above are logically equivalent. (4)

(Total: 10 marks)

4. a) Explain what is meant by "begging the question". (2)

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

   "Super Soda is the best soda there is, because it is endorsed by many social media influencers." (4)

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

(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 how Kantian ethics would respond to physician-assisted suicide.

6. Critically assess the Sophists' claim that truth is relative.

7. Use the definition and theory of privacy in Cyberspace to comment on the ethical implications that arise with the use of software like iNVESTIGATE in the case study of Newport Electronics.

8. How can Aristotle's ethics provide a path to self-fulfilment?

(Total: 70 marks)

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ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	1st September 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. Observation shows us, first that every city [*polis*] is a species of association, and, secondly, that all associations comes into being for the sake of some good – for all men do all their acts with a view to achieving something which is, in their view, a good. It is clear therefore that all associations aim at some good, and that the particular association which is the most sovereign of all, and includes the rest, will pursue this aim most, and will thus be directed to the most sovereign of all goods. This most sovereign and inclusive association is the city [or *polis*], as it is called, or the political association. …
   From these considerations it is evident that the city belongs to the class of things that exist by nature, and that man is by nature a political animal. He who is without a city, by reason of his own nature and not of some accident, is either a poor sort of being, or a being higher than man.

   (From: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, Chapter 1-2)

a. Explain what Aristotle means when he writes that acts "aim at some good." (5)

b. Why does Aristotle think that "man is by nature a political animal"? What are the implications of this statement on his thinking about the human? (10)

c. What is the relation between Aristotle's political views and his ideas on ethics? (15)

(Total: 30 marks)

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SECTION B

Choose any TWO questions. Each question carries 35 marks.

2. The notions of personhood and personal identity have raised a number of philosophical questions. Discuss some of these questions in light of the characteristics of personhood and continuity theories of personal identity.

3. Critically discuss Albert Camus' philosophical ideas on whether human existence is meaningful.

4. Do knowledge and science have limits? Discuss.

5. What has speech act theory contributed to philosophical debates on language? Discuss in relation to **TWO** philosophers.

6. Discuss how Plato's theory of the Tripartite Soul informs his idea of the state as man writ large.

(Total: 70 marks)