L-Università ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2026 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	31st August 2026
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 deductive argument is valid and sound. (2)

   b) Translate the following arguments symbolically, and check whether they are valid and sound:

      (i) Unless John is fishing, Petra is not swimming. John is not fishing. Therefore, Petra is swimming. (2)
      (ii) If John is fishing, Petra is swimming. Petra is not swimming. Therefore, John is not fishing. (2)

   c) The following three premisses are known to be true:
   Premiss 1: If Amy is at work then, unless Jane is at the office, Jane will not meet Amy.
   Premiss 2: Amy is at work.
   Premiss 3: Jane will meet her.

      (i) Which proposition can be concluded by applying Modus Ponens to the first two premisses? (2)
      (ii) Which proposition can be concluded by applying Modus Tollens to the answer to (c) (i) above and the third premiss? (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

2. a) Translate the following propositions symbolically, and work out their truth-tables:

      (i) John and James are at the store, and at least one of John and James is not at the store. (3)
      (ii) John and James are at the store, or at least one of John and James is not at the store. (3)

   b) What is meant by saying that a formula A implies a formula B, i.e. that A<B. (2)

   c) Arrange the formulae in 2a) so that the formula on the left would imply the formula on the right. (2)

(Total: 10 marks)

Please turn the page.

© The MATSEC Examinations Board reserves all rights on the examination questions in all examination papers set by the said Board.

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

a	b	X	Y	Z
T	T	T	F	F
T	F	T	F	T
F	T	F	F	F
F	F	F	T	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:
'Unless John is at the party, Petra is at the party.' (1)

(ii) For the proposition (i) above, give, in words, the:
(a) inverse;
(b) converse; and
(c) contrapositive. (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)

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

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

"The testimony in this text is reliable because everything it says is true, and everything it says is true because it is the word of a trustworthy source." (4)

c) Give the structure of the fallacy identified in 4b) above, and give another 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. Compare and contrast Immanuel Kant's hypothetical and categorical imperatives with the moral theory of Utilitarian ethics.

6. Discuss Nietzsche's understanding of the crisis of morality and critically analyse what he means by a new morality that goes beyond good and evil.

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

8. Give a critical account of the Sophists' philosophy about truth and morality by making reference to **both** Protagoras and Gorgias.

(Total: 70 marks)

L-Università ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2026 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**Philosophy**
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	1st September 2026
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. All Sisyphus' silent joy is contained therein. His fate belongs to him. His rock is his thing. Likewise, the absurd man, when he contemplates his torment, silences all the idols. [...] There is no sun without shadow, and it is essential to know the night. The absurd man says yes and his effort will henceforth be unceasing. [...] At the subtle moment when man glances backwards over his life, Sisyphus returning towards his rock, in that slight pivoting he contemplates that series of unrelated actions which becomes his fate, created by him, combined under his memory's eye and soon sealed by his death.

   I leave Sisyphus at the foot of the mountain! One always finds one's burden again. But Sisyphus teaches the higher fidelity that negates the gods and raises rocks. He too concludes that all is well. This universe henceforth without a master seems to him neither sterile nor futile. Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night-filled mountain, in itself forms a world. The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.

   (From: Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*)

a) Why does Camus compare the human condition to that of Sisyphus? Discuss. (15)

b) Why does Camus think that Sisyphus is happy? Discuss in relation to his notion of the 'absurd hero'. (15)

(Total: 30 marks)

Please turn the page.

© The MATSEC Examinations Board reserves all rights on the examination questions in all examination papers set by the said Board.

SECTION B

Choose any TWO questions. Each question carries 35 marks.

2. Discuss Plato's allegory of the cave in relation to his views on metaphysics and epistemology.

3. What are the Stoics' views on nature, ethics and evil?

4. Explain the philosophical implications of determinism on human action.

5. How has the question of knowledge, its acquisition and reliability been central in modern philosophy? Discuss in relation to **TWO** modern philosophers.

6. What are the debates on the philosophy of language discussed in Plato's *Cratylus*? Discuss in relation to the different points of view presented in the dialogue.

(Total: 70 marks)