

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



PHILOSOPHY
Unit 3 Texts

PLY3

Friday 10 June 2005 Morning Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is PLY3.
- Answer **one** question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 45.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate.
- The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Answer **one** question.

1 Text: Plato's "The Republic"

Total for this question: 45 marks

Study the following passage and then answer **all** parts of Question 1.

"So Philosophy is abandoned by those who should be her true lovers, who leave her deserted and unwed to pursue a life that does not really suit them, while she, like an abandoned orphan, suffers at the hands of second-rate interlopers all the shame and abuse which you have said her detractors accuse her of, when they say that half her companions are worthless and the other half downright wicked." 1
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"That is what is commonly said."

"And quite rightly," I replied. "For when they see so good a piece of territory, with all its titles and dignities, unoccupied, a whole crowd of squatters gladly sally out from the meaner trades, at which they have acquired a considerable degree of skill, and rush into philosophy, like a crowd of criminals taking refuge in a temple. For philosophy, abused as it is, still retains a far higher reputation than other occupations, a reputation which these stunted natures covet, their minds being as cramped and crushed by their mechanical lives as their bodies are deformed by manual trades. This all follows, doesn't it?" 10

"Yes."

"They are for all the world like some bald-headed little tinker who's just got out of prison and come into money, and who has a bath and dresses himself up in a new suit, like a bridegroom, and sets off to marry his boss's daughter because her family's fallen on hard times." 15

"The comparison is fair enough."

Question 1

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) who are said to abandon Philosophy? (2 marks)
 - (ii) with what is Philosophy compared? (2 marks)
 - (iii) briefly describe how Socrates characterises those coming into Philosophy. (6 marks)
- (b) Describe the simile of the divided line and indicate **one** of its possible purposes. (10 marks)
- (c) Assess whether Plato's Philosopher Rulers should rule. (25 marks)

2 Text: Descartes' "Meditations"

Total for this question: 45 marks

Study the following passage and then answer **all** parts of Question 2.

Moreover, whatever proof and argument I use, it must always come back to this, that only the things I conceive clearly and distinctly have the power to convince me completely. And although, among the things I conceive in this way, there are indeed some which are obvious to everyone, while others reveal themselves only to those who consider them more closely and examine them more precisely, nevertheless, after they have once been discovered, the latter are not considered less certain than the former. Thus, for example, in every right-angled triangle, although it is not at first so easily perceived that the square of the base is equal to the squares of the other two sides, as that this base is opposite to the greatest angle, nevertheless, once this is recognized, we are equally persuaded of the truth of the former as of the latter. And, as regards God, if my mind were not already obscured by prejudices, and my thought distracted by the continual presence of the images of sensible objects, there would be nothing that I should know sooner or more easily than him. For is there anything of itself clearer and more manifest than the existence of a God, that is to say a supreme and perfect being, in the idea of whom alone is contained necessary or eternal existence, and who, consequently, exists?

Question 2

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) what has the power to convince Descartes completely? (2 marks)
 - (ii) identify what Descartes regards as a distraction to the mind; (2 marks)
 - (iii) briefly explain why Descartes thinks that God must exist. (6 marks)
- (b) Explain Descartes' example of the pilot and the ship and its relation to the intermingling thesis. (10 marks)
- (c) Assess whether Descartes succeeds in establishing his first certainty. (25 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT QUESTION

3 Text: Marx and Engels' "The German Ideology"

Total for this question: 45 marks

Study the following passage and then answer **all** parts of Question 3.

The premises from which we begin are not arbitrary ones, not dogmas, but real premises from which abstraction can only be made in the imagination. They are the real individuals, their activity and the material conditions under which they live, both those which they find already existing and those produced by their activity. These premises can thus be verified in a purely empirical way. 1
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The first premise of all human history is, of course, the existence of living human individuals. Thus the first fact to be established is the physical organisation of these individuals and their consequent relation to the rest of nature. Of course, we cannot here go either into the actual physical nature of man, or into the natural conditions in which man finds himself – geological, orohydrographical, climatic and so on. The writing of history must always set out from these natural bases and their modification in the course of history through the action of men. 10

Men can be distinguished from animals by consciousness, by religion or anything else you like. They themselves begin to distinguish themselves from animals as soon as they begin to *produce* their means of subsistence, a step which is conditioned by their physical organisation. By producing their means of subsistence men are indirectly producing their actual material life. 15

Question 3

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) how are Marx and Engels' first premises said to be verified? (2 marks)
 - (ii) what is said to be the first premise of all human history? (2 marks)
 - (iii) briefly explain why Marx and Engels regard physical conditions as important. (6 marks)
- (b) Outline Marx and Engels' critique of the Young Hegelians. (10 marks)
- (c) Assess whether Marx and Engels were right to think that revolution is inevitable. (25 marks)

4 Text: Sartre's "Existentialism and Humanism"

Total for this question: 45 marks

Study the following passage and then answer **all** parts of Question 4.

Text from JEAN-PAUL SARTRE, *Existentialism and Humanism*, translated by PHILIP MAIRET, Methuen, 1980, pp54-55. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Question 4

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) for what has Sartre been reproached? *(2 marks)*
 - (ii) why will the existentialist not regard Man as the end? *(2 marks)*
 - (iii) briefly explain why Sartre rejects the version of humanism discussed in the extract. *(6 marks)*
- (b) Describe the example of the Jesuit priest and its purpose. *(10 marks)*
- (c) Assess Sartre's claim that Man's existence precedes his essence. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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- Question 1 PLATO, *The Republic* (Penguin Classics) Trans. DESMOND LEE, 1974
Question 2 RENÉ DESCARTES, *Discourse on Method and The Meditations* (Penguin Classics) Trans. F E SUTCLIFFE, 1968
Question 3 KARL MARX AND FREDERICK ENGELS, *The German Ideology* (Lawrence and Wishart) Ed. C J ARTHUR, 1970
Question 4 JEAN-PAUL SARTRE, *Existentialism and Humanism* (Methuen) Trans. PHILIP MAIRET, 1980