



**Strathmore**  
UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION**  
**BDP 4205: READINGS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS**

Date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Time: 15.00 - 17.00

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**Instructions**

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

**Question 1:** Answer the following 15 questions.

For each question (1-15) indicate:

- a) The work on political philosophy of the philosopher mentioned, which has been studied in the course (1 mark)
- b) The underlying theme of his political philosophy in this work (1 mark)
  - 1.1. Isaac Berlin
  - 1.2. Nicolló Machivelli
  - 1.3. Plato
  - 1.4. Alexis de Tocqueville
  - 1.5. Karl Popper
  - 1.6. Hannah Arendt
  - 1.7. St. Augustine of Hippo
  - 1.8. St. Thomas More
  - 1.9. Jean Jacques Rousseau
  - 1.10. St. Thomas Aquinas
  - 1.11. Thomas Hobbes
  - 1.12. Marcus Tullius Cicero
  - 1.13. Franz Fanon
  - 1.14. Aristotle
  - 1.15. Leo Strauss

**Total marks 2x15= 30 marks**

**Question 2.**

Plato believed that an ideal society should be composed of many individuals, organized into distinct classes.

- a. Why does Plato think that an ideal society should consist of many individuals organised into distinct classes? (5 marks)
- b. How many classes should those be and what would each class do? (10 marks)

**Question 3.**

Compare the approach towards the origin of society between Aristotle and Jean **Jacques** Rousseau (15 marks)

**Question 4.**

Read the following quotation and guided by the 3 points that follow, discuss it.

*How we live is so far removed from how we ought to live, that he who abandons what is done for what ought to be done, will rather learn to bring about his own ruin than his preservation. A man who wishes to make a profession of goodness in everything must necessarily come to grief among so many who are not good.*

- a. The political philosopher to whom you attribute this view
- b. At least three other recommendations that this same author gives to rulers
- c. Your general appraisal of the soundness or unsoundness of his general political philosophy. (15 marks)

**Question 5**

Read the following quotation and, guided by the following 3 points, discuss the soundness or unsoundness of this philosophy

- a. To whom do you attribute these words?
- b. How far do you agree with his views?
- c. Discuss the highlighted words with regards to Kenyan society.

*To this war of everyman against every man, this also is consequent: that nothing can be unjust. The notions of right and wrong, justice and injustice have there no place. Where there is no common power, there is no law; where no law, no injustice. **Force and fraud are in war the two cardinal virtues.** Justice and injustice are one of faculties neither of the body nor mind. If they were, they might be in a man that were alone in the world, as well as his senses and passions. (...)*

(15 marks)

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