

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

BDP 4206 READINGS ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS

DATE: Wednesday, 18th March 2020

Time: 8:00 – 10:00

Instructions

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

QUESTION 1 (30 marks)

- a. Explain three characteristics of ideologies. (6 marks)
- b. Identify two main characteristics of modern Philosophy and explain how exactly they led to Liberalism. (8 marks)
- c. List down four types of Liberalism, briefly explain each of them and name one Philosopher that corresponds to each of them. (12 marks)
- d. Define Natural Moral Law from the Gnoseological dimension. (1 mark)
- e. Explain Natural moral law from its anthropological dimension, indicating how it is connected to the natural goods of man. (3 marks)

QUESTION 2 (15 Marks)

The following are definitions of the law of nature by two different authors:

- i. “The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges every one: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions”
 - ii “A Law of Nature is a Precept, or general Rule, found out by Reason, by which a man is forbidden to do, that, which is destructive of his life, or taketh away the means of preserving the same; and to omit, that, by which he thinks it may be best preserved.”
- a. Identify the authors and the works in which they appear, according to the order in which they are presented. (2 marks)
 - b. How are these two definitions similar? (3 marks)
 - c. How are these two definitions different and what is the cause of this difference? (6 marks)
 - d. In his letter on toleration, what two reasons does John Locke give to explain why the state shouldn't have dominion over people's religious beliefs? (4 marks)

QUESTION 3 (15 Marks)

- a. Explain the meaning of the following phrases as used in Sir. Roger Scruton's second chapter of, *How to be a conservative*, and give an example to illustrate your explanation.
 - i. "Economic order depends on moral order." (4 marks)
 - ii. "Beneath every society where self-interest pays off, lies a foundation of self-sacrifice." (4 marks)
 - iii. "A line of obligation." (4 marks)
- b. What characterises the kind of knowledge that Sir. Roger Scruton means by "tradition" and how is it obtained? (3 marks)

QUESTION 4 (15 Marks)

- a. Apart from self-interest, what four other natural impulses does Adam Smith attribute to human beings, and which of them causes the division of labour? (3 marks)
- b. Briefly discuss whether there is any room for benevolence in Adam Smith's philosophy. (3 marks)
- c. Explain the three advantages of the division of labour, giving an example for each. (9 marks)

QUESTION 5 (15 Marks)

- a. What does Alexis de Tocqueville mean by *Soft Despotism*, and to what cause does he attribute it? Provide an example of soft despotism in Kenya to support your answer. (8 marks)
- b. What de Tocqueville mean by "a tyranny of the majority" and what two things cause it? (4 Marks)
- c. List and explain three solutions that de Tocqueville gives to counter the tyranny of the majority? (3 marks)