



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

BDP 3102 - HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHERS

Date: 16th November 2022

Time: 08:00 – 10:00

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **FOUR** questions. It will be marked out of 60 and adds up 60% of your final mark.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

Question ONE (Compulsory) (24 marks)

- a) What was Nicolas Copernicus famous for? (1 marks)
- b) According to Hobbes, when does Law begin? (1marks)
- c) What is a social contract according to Hobbes? (1 marks)
- d) When Hobbes talks about “laws of nature,” he does not mean the same thing as Aquinas’s view of “natural law.” Explain the fundamental differences between the two views. (2 marks)
- e) Describe the rationalism of the Early Modern Ages. (3 marks)
- f) What is Kant’s deontological position in ethics? (2 marks)
- g) What did he mean by the categorical imperative? (2 marks)
- h) Which were the outstanding philosophies of thought of the Modern era and which question did they struggle with? Define them. (4 marks)
- i) What was Descartes main concern and what other great question preoccupied him? (1 mark)
- j) Of what one thing was Descartes certain? (2 marks)
- k) Name two prominent empiricists and two prominent realists of Modern philosophy. (2 marks)
- l) How is Spinoza different from Descartes and in which point did their ideas coincide? (3 marks)

Section II: Answer any TWO.

Question 2 (18 marks):

- a. Who wrote *A Letter Concerning Toleration*? (2 marks)
- b. Why was this an important letter at this time? (3 marks)
- c. What was Locke's theory of knowledge? (4 marks)
- d. What would be the likely explanation for intolerance in those times? (5 marks)
- e. Criticise/support these views with regard to our present day and age. (4 marks)

Question 3 (18 marks)

- a. Identify the author of *The Principles of Philosophy known as Monadology*? (1 mark)
- b. Define and describe what monads are and how are monads different from atoms? (3 marks)
- c. Outline and briefly describe 3 of the author's other key principles (6 marks)
- d. Discuss the author's solution to the problem of evil and whether it is a satisfactory one. (4 marks)
- e. According to the author, is it possible to tell monads apart - how do they differ from one another? In your own words, how does the author justify this? (4 marks)

Question 4 (18 marks)

- a. Who is the author of *A Treatise of Human Nature*? (2 mark)
- b. What is his understanding of *personal identity*? (5 marks)
- c. What arguments would you provide against his notion of personal identity? (3 marks)
- d. React to his explanation of the role of memory with regard to personal identity. (4 marks)
- e. What repercussions does his understanding of the notion of identity have on day to day social relations? (4 marks)

All the Best!