



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY
BDP 4105: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
END OF SEMESTER EXAM

Date: 4th November

Time: 10:30 – 12:30

Instructions

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

Question 1.

- 1.1. a) From your reading of excerpts from *The Veil of Isis. A History of the Idea Nature*, give 3 meanings of the 'phusis' in Greek antiquity (2x3) **[6 marks]**
- 1.1. b) The following statement is attributed to Epicurus. "*what appears makes visible what is hidden*".
 - a) Who was Epicurus? **[1 mark]**
 - b) What could he have meant with the phrase? **[3 marks]**
- 1.1. c) In the *Veil of Isis, The History of the Idea of Nature*, Pierre Hadot says that Plato refuses to discuss things that transcend human beings and rebukes philosophers who engage in such investigations. **[2 marks]**
- 1.2. Explain the relationship and difference between the following three fields to illustrate the meaning and possibility of a Philosophy of science
 - a. Philosophy **[6 marks]**
 - b. Science **[6 marks]**
 - c. Philosophy of science **[6 marks]**

Question 2

Explain and discuss the main characteristics of the thinkers of the period commonly known as the Age of Reason, Illumination or the Enlightenment. (**[15 marks]**

Question 3

In his book *A System of Logic* John Stuart Mill outlined what he considered to be the ideal Methods of Experimental Inquiry' also known as Mill's Canons. **[15 marks]**

Question 4

- a) What is Logical Positivism [4 marks]
- b) Give a brief profile of 4 of its most prominent founder members [2 marks]
- c) What was the name of their Manifesto and what was its main focus? [3 marks]
- d) In what ways did they change the understanding of philosophy and of scientific knowledge in general. [4 marks]
- e) Make a critique of Logical Positivism? [2 marks]

Question 5

Discuss the Scope and Limit of Science (Experimental) (5 marks) and show its relation to a) Philosophy 5 (5marks) b) Theology & Religion (5 marks). [15 marks]