



**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
BDP 3102: HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

DATE: 16th October 2023

TIME: 08:00-10:00

Instructions

Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

Question ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 marks)

- a. Which were the outstanding philosophies of thought of the Modern era and which main question did they struggle with? Define them. (6 marks)
- b. Explain Machiavelli's view of how rulers are supposed to govern. (4 marks)
- c. Contrast Machiavelli's views above with a more traditional theory of governance by Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, or Aquinas. (5 marks)
- d. Discuss Luther's position on faith and reason (4 marks)
- e. Nietzsche was an atheist who believed God was dead. Why did he think so and explain what the consequences of the death of God meant for him? (3 marks)
- f. 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)
- g. According to Hobbes, when does Law begin and how does one get to this point? (1 mark)
- h. During his life, Leibniz debated his theory of monads against defenders of atomism. What are the key points of distinction between those two theories and which would seem more reasonable to someone who had no knowledge of modern science? (5 marks)

Question TWO (15 marks)

Rene Descartes

- a. In his methodological doubting process, Descartes considers the possibility that God is deceiving him in all things, except for the conviction that Descartes himself exists. Might this also be subject to doubt? Explain. (5 marks)
- b. Explain the four steps of the Cartesian Method for arriving at truth. (5 marks)
- c. Descartes provides two proofs for the existence of God: the proof from causality and the ontological proof. Explain any of them. (5 marks)

Question THREE (15 marks)

- a. Hume's view of morality is that it is grounded in human psychology (sympathetic feelings of pleasure and pain), and not in natural laws or the universal truths. Discuss his theory and whether his purely psychological approach cheapens the nature of morality. (7 marks)
- b. What is his understanding of *personal identity*? (2 marks)
- c. React to his explanation of the role of memory with regard to personal identity. (4 marks)
- d. What repercussions does his understanding of the notion of identity have on day to day social relations? (2 marks)

Question FOUR (15 marks)

- a. In Kant's famous essay, "What is enlightenment," he states two causes of man's self-imposed immaturity. Briefly explain what these causes are. (4 marks)
- b. According to the author, what simple thing is necessary for the enlightenment? (2 marks)
- c. Francis Bacon, has similar views to the author above and approaches the problem of immaturity with the concept of "Idols". Explain what he means by Idols, and briefly explain each of the four "Idols" he talks about in the "*Novum Organum*" (9 marks)

All the best!