



## SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY

#### SPECIAL EXAMINATION

#### BDP 4205: READINGS OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Time:** 08:00 – 10:00

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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 questions. (30 marks)

- a) What is Political Philosophy? (4 marks)
- b) For each of the following authors indicate a work on political philosophy that we have studied. (16 marks)
  1. Isaac Berlin
  2. Alexis de Tocqueville
  3. Karl Popper
  4. St. Augustine of Hippo
  5. St. Thomas More
  6. Jean Jacques Rousseau
  7. Thomas Hobbes
  8. Aristotle
- c) Which philosophy of all the above eight would you say is close to the kind of society and leadership we have in Kenya today, and why? (10 marks)

#### **Question 2. (15 marks)**

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. (15 marks)

Compare the ideal leader in Tullius Cicero and the same in Nicolló Machivelli

### Question 4. (15 marks)

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 (5 marks)
- b. At least three other recommendations that this same author gives to rulers (5 marks)
- c. Your general appraisal of the soundness or unsoundness of his general political philosophy. (5 marks)

### Question 5 (15 marks)

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. (....)*

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