



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
BDP 3201 HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

DATE: 11th March 2025

TIME: 13:30-15:30

Instructions

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

QUESTION 1 (30 marks)

- a. In Economic Liberalism, explain how the concept of alienation manifests in economic relations according to Karl Marx, and with a real example, explain whether his concept is fully true. (6 marks)
- b. Briefly describe John Stuart Mill's "Harm Principle" and explain how it goes against some of the fundamental characteristics of correct Moral Liberalism. Also provide a simple example to illustrate this. (8 marks)
- c. Explain what Religious Liberalism is, the separation it creates and one key advantage and disadvantage it carries. Support your answers with good examples. (8 marks)
- d. Explain the difference between a Shame Culture and a Guilt Culture in Contemporary Philosophy, and the effect on the dignity of the human person. Give an example to illustrate each type. (8 marks)

QUESTION 2 (10 marks)

Compare and contrast Enlightenment Rationalism and Romanticism in contemporary philosophy, explaining their origins, similarities, and fundamental differences. Discuss how Romanticism emerged as a reaction to Enlightenment Rationalism despite their common origin. (10 marks)

QUESTION 3 (10 marks)

Explain the differences in the idea of God between the existentialist philosophies of Soren Kierkegaard and Arthur Schopenhauer, and how each falls short of the idea of a God of Reason.

QUESTION 4 (10 marks)

Explain the three main values of Personalism in general, and discuss how Martin Buber's personalism fits into them.

QUESTION 5 (10 marks)

Explain how Nietzsche arrived at the idea of the Superman, starting with the overcoming of the metaphysical lie and through the transvaluation of values and the "Death of God".