

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

INTRODUCTION TO  
PHILOSOPHY  
PHL111/E

SPECIAL EXAMINATION

January

2019

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Time: 3 Hours  
Subject: PHL111/E  
Marks: 100

This paper consists of \_ pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners  
Dr Rianna Gelofsen

External Examiners

INSTRUCTIONS

Please answer ALL the questions in Sections A and C. Choose ONE question in Section B.

Please write clearly and legibly.

## Section A: Short questions (70 marks)

### Introduction (9)

1. What are three main branches of philosophy? Explain what each branch means in your own words. [3 marks]
2. What is an open question? (2 marks)
3. Explain what *a priori* reasoning means. Give an example of a statement which is *a priori* true. (2 marks)
4. What does Magobo B Ramose think is necessary in order to liberate philosophy? (2 marks)

### PHIL OF EDUCATION (13)

7. Explain the banking model of education. (3 marks)
8. What is pedagogy? (2 marks)
9. Why does Freire claim that the oppressed internalizes the values of the oppressors? Can you give an example of the oppressed internalizing the values of the oppressed? (3 marks)
10. What do YOU think it means to learn something? Explain what you think learning something means, and also explain how you think we are best able to learn anything. (5 marks)

### PHIL OF MIND (10)

11. What is metaphysics? Explain in your own words. (1 marks)
12. What is dualism in the philosophy of mind? (2 marks)
13. Does having a mind mean the same thing as being able to understand? Could a computer understand? (4 marks)
14. What do you think is the relationship between body and mind? Give reasons for your answer. (3 marks)

## EPISTEMOLOGY (20)

15. What are the requirements for the classical theory of knowledge? (3 marks)
16. What does skepticism claim concerning the possibilities of acquiring knowledge? (2 marks)
17. List three sources of true beliefs which we have good reason to consider reliable. (3 marks)
18. What are the 3 main theories of truth, give a description of each. (6 marks)
19. Explain what “epistemic injustice” is according to Miranda Fricker. (4 marks)
20. Explain the concept of “World-travelling” according to Maria Logunes. (2 marks)

## Meaning in Life (10)

21. What are synonyms for ‘meaningful life’ as philosophers use the phrase? (2 marks)
22. What are the two main supernaturalist theories on the meaning of life Metz discusses in his paper? Explain briefly what each theory entails. (4 marks)
23. What is nihilism? Describe the position of nihilism, and explain what it means. (2 marks)
24. Give two questions that Metz argues a theory of life ought to answer. (2 marks)

## Political Philosophy (8 marks)

25. Give an example of a question in political philosophy. (1 mark)
26. Explain Mills’ “harm principle”. (4 marks)
27. Explain John Rawls’ concept of the ‘veil of ignorance’. What is the function this concept is meant to play in his theory of justice? (3 marks)

Section B: Essay question (20 marks)

CHOOSE ONE OF THE QUESTIONS BELOW. AND ANSWER THE QUESTION IN AN ESSAY FORMAT.

- A. Do you think the banking model of education is the best (or ideal) model of education? Why or why not? Give reasons for your answer.
- OR
- B. What do you think the relationship is between body and mind? Give reasons for your answer.

Section C: Identify, Explain, Evaluate (10 marks)

1. In the quotation below, (a) identify the main claim, (b) explain the argument, and (c) evaluate the paragraph. (5 marks)

“Most people who believe that a certain relationship with God is necessary and sufficient for anyone’s life to be meaningful agree that the relationship just is the meaningfulness. However, God-centered theorists disagree about exactly which relationship with God would constitute a life’s meaning. In virtue of what would meaning be conferred on a person’s existence by the spiritual source of the universe who is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-good? The traditional answer that continues to dominate supernaturalist thinking is that meaning in our lives would come from fulfilling a purpose that God has assigned to us. According to this “purpose theory,” a life is meaningful just insofar as it does what God intends it to do.” (Metz p 784)

2. In the quotation below, (a) identify the main claim, (b) explain the argument, and (c) evaluate the paragraph. (5 marks)

“Despite some philosophical disagreements about the best description of the capability approach, it is generally understood as a conceptual framework for a range of normative exercises, including most prominent the following: (1) the assessment of individual well-being; (2) the evaluation and assessment of social arrangements; and (3) the design of policies and proposals about social change in society. In all these normative exercises, the capability approach prioritizes certain of peoples' beings and doings and their opportunities to realize those beings and doings (such as their genuine opportunities to be educated, their ability to move around or to enjoy supportive social relationships). This stands in contrast to other accounts of well-being, which focus exclusively on subjective categories (such as happiness) or on the material means to wellbeing (such as resources like income or wealth).” Ingrid Robeyns, SEP