

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD

General Certificate of Education Examination

Philosophy 2
0790

JUNE 2023

ADVANCED LEVEL

Subject Title	PHILOSOPHY
Paper No./Title	Paper 2 (Philosophical Writing and Analysis)
Subject Code No.	0790

Three hours

Candidates are required to answer **FOUR** questions, choosing *at least one* question from each section.

Each essay question shall be marked according to the following criteria:

- *Coherence and organization of material;*
- *Clear presentation of the problematic;*
- *Identification and development of the Thesis, Antithesis, Synthesis and Conclusion as prescribed.*

Each question carries 25 marks.

You are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation in your answers.

Turn Over

SECTION ONE: WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

1. Assess Anaximander's cosmogony. (25 marks)

2. To what extent is Cartesian epistemology a rigorous effort in the attainment of certitude? (25 marks)

SECTION TWO: AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

3. Is ethno-philosophy philosophical? (25 marks)

4. The notion of "force-being" is central in African metaphysics. Justify this claim. (25 marks)

SECTION THREE: TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

5. Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

But, which is worse, this argument of universal consent, which is made use of to prove innate principles, seems to me a demonstration that there are none such ; because there are none to which all mankind give an universal assent. I shall begin with the speculative, and instance in those magnified principles of demonstration. 'Whatsoever is, is' and 'It is impossible for the same thing to be and not be'; which of all others, I think have the most allowed title to innate. For, first, it is evident, that all children and idiots have not the least apprehension of them or thought of them. And the want of that is enough to destroy that universal assent which must needs be necessary concomitant of all innate truth: it seeming to me to me near a contradiction to say, that there are truths imprinted, if it signify anything, being nothing else but the making certain truths to be perceived. For to imprint anything on the mind without the mind's perceiving it, seems to me hardly intelligible.

John Locke, An Essay concerning Human Understanding

Questions

- a) State the main theme and articulations of the text above.
OR
State the author's problem and solution provided in the passage above. (2, 3 marks)
 - b) Explain the following:
 - (i) Universal assent
 - (ii) Truths imprinted (2 x 2 marks)
 - c) Briefly explain any two arguments against innate ideas by John Locke (6 marks)
 - d) State and briefly explain Locke's three degrees of knowledge (6 marks)
 - e) To what extent is Rationalism a solution to the Empiricists' worry? (4 marks)
-

6. **Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow**

The requirement of an individual to help others is typically deemed heavier in African than in Western morality. People in the west tend to think that individual rights should largely determine the resources one may possess; for example, one has a right to keep what one deserves for having been productive, a right to share in virtue of having contributed to cooperative scheme, or a right to keep what one has received by voluntary transfer from a previous owner. Giving to others what they have no right to is not thought of as upholding a duty but as being generous. In contrast, a greater percentage of Africans think that one is morally obligated to help others, roughly to the extent that one can, and that others need, with right not figuring in to the analysis of how much one ought to transfer wealth, time or labour. Illustrative is the parable of the cow (and similar widespread sayings): "If you have two cows and the milk of the first cow is sufficient for your own consumption, Ubuntu expects you to donate the milk of the second cow to your underprivileged brothers and sisters."

Metz, "Towards an African Moral Theory" in Isaac Ukpokolo (ed.) *Themes, Issues and problems in African Philosophy*, Gerverbestrasse, Palgrave MacMillan, 2017, pp 97-119

Questions

- a) State the main theme and logical articulations of the text.
OR
State the author's problem and solution provided in the passage above. (2, 3 marks)
- b) Explain the following:
 - (i) "[I]individual rights should largely determine the resources one may possess" (2 x 2 marks)
 - (ii) "Illustrative is the parable of the cow" (2 x 2 marks)
- c) Why does the author think that it is a moral obligation for Africans to help each other without much analysis of what one possesses? (4 marks)
- d) What is unique about the ideology of Ubuntu? (4 marks)
- e) Bring out two differences between western and African morality. (4 marks)
- f) What impact can African morality have on contemporary society? (4 marks)

GO BACK AND CHECK YOUR WORK