

General Certificate of Education  
June 2006  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**PHILOSOPHY**  
**Unit 3 Texts**

**PLY3**

Tuesday 6 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.00 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is PLY3.
- Answer **one** question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 45.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

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Answer **one** question.

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**Total for this question: 45 marks**

**1** Text: Plato's 'The Republic'

Study the following extract and then answer **all** parts of Question 1.

“ ... Or do you share the common view that some of our young men are corrupted by Sophists? Can the influence of individual Sophists really corrupt them to any extent? Isn't it really the public who say this who are themselves Sophists on a grand scale, and give a complete training to young and old, men and women, turning them into just the sort of people they want?”

“When do they do that?” he asked.

“When they crowd into the seats in the assembly or law courts or theatre, or get together in camp or any other popular meeting place, and, with a great deal of noise and a great lack of moderation, shout and clap their approval or disapproval of whatever is proposed or done, till the rocks and the whole place re-echo, and redouble the noise of their boos and applause. Can a young man's heart remain unmoved by all this? How can his individual training stand the strain? Won't he be swamped by the flood of popular praise and blame, and carried away with the stream till he finds himself agreeing with popular ideas of what is admirable or disgraceful, behaving like the crowd and becoming one of them?”

**Question 1**

(a) With close reference to the extract above:

(i) identify the common view; (2 marks)

(ii) how are the public described? (2 marks)

(iii) briefly explain why Socrates thinks the public influence the young philosopher. (6 marks)

(b) Explain and illustrate the role of the Form of the Good in Plato's theory of knowledge. (10 marks)

(c) Assess whether the simile of the large and powerful animal succeeds in its purpose. (25 marks)

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**Total for this question: 45 marks**

**2** *Text: Descartes' 'Meditations'*

Study the following extract and then answer **all** parts of Question 2.

But finally, what shall I say of this mind, that is to say of myself? For so far I admit in myself nothing other than a mind. What shall I say of myself, I ask, I who seem to conceive so clearly and distinctly this piece of wax? Do I not know myself, not only with much more truth and certainty, but also more distinctly and clearly? For if I judge that the wax is, or exists, because I see it, certainly it follows much more evidently from the same fact that I myself am, or exist. For it may well be that what I see is not in effect wax; it may also be that I do not even have eyes with which to see anything; but it cannot be that, when I see or (which I no longer distinguish) think I see, I, who think, am nothing. Similarly, if I judge that the wax exists because I touch it, the same conclusion follows, namely, that I am. And if I judge thus because my imagination persuades me that it is so, or on account of any other cause whatever, I shall still draw the same conclusion. And what I have said here about the wax can apply to all the other things external to me.

**Question 2**

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) with what does Descartes identify himself? *(2 marks)*
  - (ii) how does Descartes seem to conceive of the wax? *(2 marks)*
  - (iii) briefly explain why Descartes is so sure of his own existence. *(6 marks)*
- (b) Outline Descartes' indivisibility argument for distinguishing mind and body. *(10 marks)*
- (c) Assess Descartes' ontological argument for the existence of God. *(25 marks)*

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

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**Total for this question: 45 marks**

**3** Text: Marx and Engels' 'The German Ideology'

Study the following extract and then answer **all** parts of Question 3.

As an example of Feuerbach's acceptance and at the same time misunderstanding of existing reality, which he still shares with our opponents, we recall the passage in the *Philosophie der Zukunft* where he develops the view that the existence of a thing or a man is at the same time its or his essence, that the conditions of existence, the mode of life and activity of an animal or human individual are those in which its "essence" feels itself satisfied. Here every exception is expressly conceived as an unhappy chance, as an abnormality which cannot be altered. Thus if millions of proletarians feel by no means contented with their living conditions, if their "existence" does not in the least correspond to their "essence", then, according to the passage quoted, this is an unavoidable misfortune, which must be borne quietly. The millions of proletarians and communists, however, think differently and will prove this in time, when they bring their "existence" into harmony with their "essence" in a practical way, by means of a revolution. Feuerbach, therefore, never speaks of the world of man in such cases, but always takes refuge in external nature, and moreover in *nature* which has not yet been subdued by men. But every new invention, every advance made by industry, detaches another piece from this domain, so that the ground which produces examples illustrating such Feuerbachian propositions is steadily shrinking.

**Question 3**

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) what is Feuerbach said to misunderstand? (2 marks)
  - (ii) what does Feuerbach regard as the essence of a human individual? (2 marks)
  - (iii) briefly explain why Marx and Engels think Feuerbach's account of essence is mistaken. (6 marks)
- (b) Outline and illustrate the importance of the division of labour in Marx and Engels' account of productive relations. (10 marks)
- (c) Assess Marx and Engels' use of the concept of ideology. (25 marks)

Text from JEAN-PAUL SARTRE, translated by PHILIP MAIRET,  
'*Existentialism and Humanism*', Methuen, 1980, p27.  
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**Question 4**

- (a) With close reference to the extract above:
- (i) how are we said to regard God when we think of Him as the creator? (2 marks)
  - (ii) what is meant by saying that the will follows from the understanding? (2 marks)
  - (iii) briefly describe the two ways that essence has been said to precede existence. (6 marks)
- (b) Explain and illustrate what Sartre means by anguish and despair. (10 marks)
- (c) Assess Sartre's view that something is valuable because it is chosen. (25 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Question 1 PLATO, *The Republic* (Penguin Classics) Trans. DESMOND LEE

Question 2 RENÉ DESCARTES, *Discourse on Method and the Meditations* (Penguin Classics) Trans. F E SUTCLIFFE

Question 3 MARX & ENGELS, *The German Ideology* (Lawrence and Wishart) Ed. C J ARTHUR

Question 4 JEAN-PAUL SARTRE, *Existentialism & Humanism* (Methuen) Trans. PHILIP MAIRET

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