

**Oct/Nov 2023**

**PLS1501**

**Introduction To Western Philosophy**

**100 Marks**

**Duration 3 Hours**

First examiner: Prof. P. Mungwini

Second examiner: Prof. C.D. Scott

**This paper consists of SIX (6) pages.**

**Instructions:**

- **This Question paper consist of Two Sections. Answer questions from both sections.**
- **You must use the Invigilator App for this Exam.**
- **Read all Examination instructions.**
- **Students must complete the online declaration of their work when submitting their examination script.**

**Exam QR Code & QR Access Code**



**QR Access Code: 6e05d95b**

Please note that you should scan the QR code as soon as you start with your assessment. For Take-Home exams, you should scan the QR Code as soon as you have downloaded your question paper during the 15-minute download window before the official exam start time per the timetable.

Please take note that you can only scan the QR code for a limited time after the commencement time of the assessment and it should therefore be scanned as soon as possible to start the invigilation.

Please take note that you can only scan the QR code once. Make sure you are ready to start the assessment when you scan the QR Code.

It is important to note that you must adhere to the time limit in your myExams assessment as the invigilation time in the app could exceed the time allocated to complete your assessment.

Keep the Invigilator app open on your smartphone during the assessment. You are not allowed to leave or minimise the application. **You cannot minimise the application and use your smartphone for typing. If you wish to use a smartphone for typed responses you will need an additional smartphone.**

If you experience technical difficulties on The Invigilator App, contact the technical helpdesk via WhatsApp on 073 505 8273.

#### **Additional student instructions**

1. Students must upload their answer scripts in a single PDF file on the official myExams platform (answer scripts must not be password protected or uploaded as "read-only" files). The university only marks one submission received from a student. Priority is granted to scripts received via the myExams platform.
2. **NO** e-mailed scripts will be accepted.
3. Students are advised to preview submissions (answer scripts) to ensure legibility and also to ensure that the correct answer script file has been uploaded.
4. Students are permitted to resubmit their answer scripts, but only within the stipulated submission duration, should they regard the initial submission to be unsatisfactory. Resubmissions after the closing time of the examination are not permitted.

5. Uncollated answer scripts and scripts with an incorrect file format will not be considered.
6. Wrong answer scripts that are uploaded, that is, any file other than the exam answer script (eg uploading the exam question paper instead of the exam answer script) will not be marked and no opportunity will be granted for resubmission.
7. A mark awarded for an incomplete submission will be the student's final mark. No opportunity for resubmission will be granted.
8. A mark awarded for an illegible scanned submission will be the student's final mark. No opportunity for resubmission will be granted.
9. Only the last answer file uploaded within the stipulated submission duration period will be marked.
10. Submissions will only be accepted from registered student accounts.
11. Students who have not utilised invigilation or proctoring tools will be deemed to have transgressed Unisa's examination rules and will have their marks withheld. If a student is found to have been outside the Invigilator App (by exiting or minimising the Invigilator App) for a total of 10 minutes during their examination session will be considered to have violated Unisa's examination rules and their marks will be withheld. For examinations which use the IRIS invigilation system, IRIS must be recording throughout the duration of the examination until the submission of the examination script.
12. Assessments invigilated by the Invigilator App require a student to activate the QR code. The QR code is available for activation 15 minutes before the start time of the examination and 30 minutes after the official start time of the examination. Students who fail to activate the QR code within the available 45 minutes will be deemed not to have utilised the invigilation or proctoring tools and will have their final marks withheld.
13. Students have 48 hours from the completion of their examination session to upload their invigilator results from the Invigilator App. Failure to do so will result in students deemed not to have utilised the invigilation or proctoring tools will have their final marks withheld.
14. Students must complete the online declaration of their work when submitting their examination script. Students suspected of dishonest conduct during the examinations will be subjected to disciplinary processes. Students may not communicate with any other person or request assistance from any other person during their examinations. The use of Telegram, WhatsApp or any other instant messaging services with any other person (except when asking for technical assistance via official channels of the SCSC or the Invigilator WhatsApp line) are strictly prohibited. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and students who plagiarise, copy from published work or use Artificial Intelligence Software (eg ChatGPT) or online sources (eg course material) will be in violation of the Policy on

Academic Integrity and the Student Disciplinary Code and may be referred to a disciplinary hearing. Unisa has a zero tolerance for plagiarism and/or any other forms of academic dishonesty.

15. Listening to audio (music) and making use of audio-to-text software is strictly prohibited during your examination session unless such usage of the software is related to a student's assistive device which has been so declared. Failure to do so will be a transgression of Unisa's examination rules and the student's marks will be withheld.
16. Students who are differently abled, have a disability or who are incarcerated are exempted from using proctoring tools. Only students who have declared their disability with supporting documentation (doctors note indicating disability and the additional time that will be required for the completion of examination) during registration will be exempted. Students who have not so declared may provide the declaration (doctors note indicating disability and the additional time that will be required for the completion of examination) to [examdisability@unisa.ac.za](mailto:examdisability@unisa.ac.za) 7 days prior to their examination sitting for processing of their exemption. Incarcerated students are advised to submit their proof of incarceration to [Proctoringenquiries@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Proctoringenquiries@unisa.ac.za) 7 days prior to their examination sitting for processing of their exemption.
17. Students who are negatively affected by their examination scheduling on religious/holy days are requested to apply for alternative examination arrangements. A student's religious organisation must communicate directly with Unisa on a letterhead informing Unisa of: (1) Name, Surname and Student Number of the enrolled member of the religious organisation; (2) Module code affected by examination scheduling (dates of religious days) on the holy day; (3) Nature of Objection. The letter should be sent to [religiousstudents@unisa.ac.za](mailto:religiousstudents@unisa.ac.za) 7 days prior to the examination sitting for processing. Letters directly received from students will not be processed.
18. Students are provided 30 minutes to submit their answer scripts after the official examination time. Students who experience technical challenges should report the challenges immediately to the SCSC telephonically on 080 000 1870 and choose option 4 for exams, or their College exam support centres (refer to the [Get help during the examinations by contacting the Student Communication Service Centre \[unisa.ac.za\]](#)) within 30 minutes. Queries received after 30 minutes of the official examination duration time will not be responded to. Submissions made after the official examination time will be rejected according to the examination regulations and will not be marked. Only communication received from your myLife account will be considered.
19. Non-adherence to the processes for uploading examination responses will not qualify the student for any special concessions or future assessments.
20. Queries that are beyond Unisa's control include the following:
  - a. Personal network or service provider issues
  - b. Load shedding/limited space on personal computer

- c. Crashed computer
- d. Non-functioning cameras or web cameras
- e. Using work computers that block access to the myExams site (employer firewall challenges)
- f. Unlicensed software (eg license expires during exams)

Postgraduate students experiencing the above challenges are advised to apply for an aegrotat and submit supporting evidence within ten days of the examination session. Students will not be able to apply for an aegrotat for a third examination opportunity.

Postgraduate/undergraduate students experiencing the above challenges in their second examination opportunity will have to reregister for the affected module.

## Section A: Short paragraph questions

### Instructions:

- Answer **ALL THREE** questions in this Section.
  - Each description should not be more than **250 words** in length.
- a) Briefly explain the meaning and significance of the following Platonic view: “the state is nothing more than the individual written in large letters.” [You should demonstrate your understanding.] [15 marks]
- b) “Augustine and Aquinas argue that God has given us free will to enable us to make free choices. If we commit immoral actions, we are asked not to blame God because moral evil is due to our own free choice. Why is it, then, that we are punished when we exercise our free choice not to love God?” If you were to respond on behalf of Augustine and Aquinas, what would you say? Explain briefly. [15 marks]
- c) Plato argues that ethics cannot be separated from metaphysics or epistemology. Briefly explain why? [Provide reasons to support your position.] [15 marks]

[Total: 3 questions x 15 marks = 45 marks]

## Section B: Long essay question

### Instructions:

- Select and answer only **ONE** question from this section.
  - In your answer, you are expected to demonstrate your understanding of the subject content and your ability to reflect critically on the question.
  - Indicate the length of your essay.
  - Your essay should **NOT exceed 1000 words**. Essays that exceed the prescribed length may not be marked.
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1. Discuss how Plato proposes to translate his vision of the ideal state into practical reality. What challenges does his project face?
  2. Compare and contrast the reactions of both Heraclitus and Parmenides to the views of the early Milesians. What does the debate among them teach us about the nature of philosophy?
  3. Both Plato and Aristotle's theories of ethics are based on a particular interpretation of human nature. Discuss. [Remember to point out the problems with their views in your answer.]

[Total: 1 essay x 55 marks = 55 marks]

**Total: Section A: [45 marks] + Section B: [55 marks] = [100 marks]**

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