

**Ghazali**

*“Ghazali sought to attack the foundations of Arabic philosophy, to undermine and to demonstrate that philosophy cannot attain the truths of religion.”* Do you agree or disagree? Your answer should include balanced argument, references to the *Incoherence of the Philosophers*, and relevant examples. **[20 marks]**

**Ibn ‘Arabi and Sufism**

Describe the main contours of Sufi philosophy. **[15 marks]**

If God is the only real being, how does Ibn ‘Arabi account for the multiplicity in the world? **[5 marks]**

**Jewish Philosophy: Maimonides**

Outline the three philosophical concerns of the Jewish philosophical community? **[2 marks]**

How do we best classify Maimonides: Thinker? Believer? Philosopher? Theologian? Sceptic? **[2 marks]**

Is an attribute of God predicated essentially or accidentally? **[4 marks]**

In Maimonides’ epistemology the predication, “God is powerful,” is problematic. Why? **[4 marks]**

Comment on the following excerpt from *Book I* of the *Guide of the Perplexed*:

*You must understand that the description of God by means of negative terms is the only sound description which contains no elements of loose terminology, and implies altogether in no circumstances a lack of perfection in God. His description by positive terms, on the other hand, comports polytheism and a lack of perfection in God...* **[8 marks]**

### ***Shi'i Philosophy: Isma'ilism***

Analyse the proposition *God is not not a thing*. And why does Isma'ili philosophy emphasise double negation epistemology? **[20 marks]**

### ***Modern Arabic Philosophy:***

What does Mulla Sadra mean by the term *ontological priority of existence*? **[10 marks]**

Comment and analyse the following excerpt from Mulla Sadra's *The Four Intellectual Journeys*:

*The perfection of man lies in the perception of universal realities (al-haqa'iq al-kulliyah) and disposition towards divine cognition, and transcendence above material sensibilia, and self-purification from the restraints of carnal and passionate appetites. This can only be acquired through guidance, teaching, discipline, and formation of righteous character* **[5 marks]**

How does Tabataba'i demonstrate the ontological priority of existence over essence? Your answer should include at least one proof. **[5 marks]**

### ***Bonus Question:***

*"Ahab Bdaiwi inspires hope. He is the epitome of the best of the medieval world: erudite, formidable, learned, humorous, and kind-hearted. His intellect was fashioned by the angels, while his wit was polished by the devil himself. Like great thinkers before him, he should be held in awe. He is to be admired, cherished, and revered."* Discuss. **[2 marks]**

Is Kim Kardashian a philosopher? **[1 mark]**