PHILOSOPHY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'Just as the end goal of socialist revolution was not only the elimination of the economic class *privilege* but of the economic class *distinction* itself, so the end goal of feminist revolution must be . . . not just the elimination of male *privilege* but of the sex *distinction* itself: genital differences between human beings would no longer matter culturally' (SHULAMITH FIRESTONE). Discuss.

2. When a new, non-empty social kind concept is articulated, does a new social kind come into existence?

3. What can political philosophers learn from the practitioners of politics?

4. When we discover that a work of art was created by a bad person, should our aesthetic relation to it change?

5. 'A person is a person through a person.' Discuss.

6. 'One who is happy to replace her beloved with someone qualitatively similar or better doesn't really love.' Does this tell us anything about the nature of love?

7. Does consent mark the boundary of ethically permissible sex?

8. If there is no God, is there a problem of evil?

9. Plato, Aristotle—or neither?

10. What can medieval Islamic debates about *taqlīd* contribute to contemporary philosophical thinking?

11. 'Hume's claim that reason is the slave of the passions is the greatest misstep in early modern philosophy.' Discuss.

12. Is there a place for hylomorphism after the scientific revolution?

13. Is there a livable nihilism?

14. Explain the Russellian and Strawsonian approaches to definite descriptions. Which is better?

15. Could there be a private language?

16. Should the moral value of a belief have any determining role in its epistemic value?

17. Are the norms of good inquiry reducible to the norms of good belief formation?

18. Can we talk, or think, about everything that exists?

19. Is there a coherent notion of metaphysical modality?

20. Is there such a subject as inductive logic?

21. Can pronouns of natural language be well-modeled as variables?

22. Suppose that Sheila thinks all cats are cute, but does not know about the existence of my cat Miau. Can I truly say 'Sheila thinks that Miau is cute'?

23. Explore the ramifications of computational complexity theory for the philosophy of mind.

24. Could rocks be conscious?

25. To what extent does work in psychology **AND/OR** economics show that humans are irrational?

26. Suppose that some outcome of a given physical system is deterministic. Can we nonetheless make sense of a notion of objective chance concerning this outcome?

27. How do we explain the apparent similarities and divergences between the natural language conditional and the material conditional?

28. Can mathematical facts explain physical phenomena?

29. 'Models are not lost noumenal waifs looking for someone to name them; they are constructions within our theory itself, and they have names from birth' (HILARY PUTNAM). Discuss.

PHILOSOPHY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

1. 'Colonialism is not a thinking machine, nor a body endowed with reasoning faculties. It is violence in its natural state, and it will only yield when confronted with greater violence' (FRANTZ FANON). Discuss.

2. In virtue of what, if anything, are both music and painting forms of art?

3. What is the wrong in cultural appropriation?

4. What role, if any, does the imagination have in an ethical life?

5. Why do we have obligations to the dead?

6. Can any metaethical theory be neutral on all first-order ethical questions?

7. 'Marx did not have, and did not need, a moral philosophy.' Discuss.

8. '[Human] nature is good (性善)' (MENCIUS). Is it?

9. Does a Buddhist no-self theory imply that emotions which presuppose the self/other distinction, e.g. shame or compassion, are unjustified?

10. What did the ancients know that we have forgotten?

11. Is there a valid version of the ontological argument?

12. Of what philosophical significance is the history of philosophy?

13. Does existence precede essence?

14. What can only be fully understood with reference to the unconscious?

15. What role, if any, should notions of blameworthiness and praiseworthiness have in epistemology?

16. How many numbers are there?

17. Is there a consistent version of verificationism? If so, is it plausible?

18. How should we evaluate the sentence 'What this sentence says is true'?

19. What does reverse mathematics teach us about the foundations of mathematics?

20. What is wrong with asserting 'It's raining but I don't know that it is'? What is wrong with thinking this?

21.   What does the recent success of machine-learning based NLP tell us about human language?

22.   Can well-being be quantified?

23.   What were sense data?

24.   Is time bias irrational?

25.   What is the truth-maker for a quantified sentence like 'Someone owns a donkey'? What about for 'No one owns a donkey'?

26.   What is the best response to Arrow's impossibility result? (Focus on one or two domains.)

27.   Which philosophical debate should be dissolved?

28.   Do the paradoxes of quantum mechanics pose a threat to classical logic?