

THEMES FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION

LECTIO CORAM 2019-2020

Part One: SYSTEMATIC PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The problem of the essence of truth is one of the most discussed topics in classical and modern epistemology. Today, a critical assessment of the different historical positions on this issue is required.
2. The question of the truthfulness of experience is a recurring problem in classical and modern epistemology. Today, a critical assessment of the different historical positions on this issue is required.

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

1. Language is grafted within the constitutively relational structure of the human being, making clear the ontological characteristics of dialogic personalism.
2. The problem of the relationship between *Logos* and truth constitutes one of the most ancient aspects of the reflection of the language in the West.

THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY I

1. Awe, fascination and trepidation before existence can lead to poetry, religious fervour or entangle us in the phenomenal dimension. Metaphysics presupposes the effort of reflection that grasps existence "the most specific perfection of all that in any way is" starting from an ontological experience of a formally rational nature.
2. The *esse-essentia* binomial makes intelligible the existence as such of multiple, contingent and even differently changing beings, if it is correctly understood and perceived as an insurmountable horizon.

THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY II

1. The existence of God is a truth that can be adequately argued from a philosophical point of view.
2. Creation and conservation in being spring from the infinitely wise and free reality of God, and are the fruit of His love.

PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

1. Man approaches life between questions and needs and lives the corporeality between experience and language by finding a centre and a hub in self-awareness.
2. *Homines sunt libertates*. The human person experiences inner freedom as a "self-design" in relationship with the range of extrinsic freedoms finding in love the culmination of his existence for-others.

MORAL PHILOSOPHY

1. The study of human conduct from the perspective of the agent makes it possible to identify the criteria for judging the good and virtuous life.
2. The moral rule can be articulated through specifically different and harmoniously connected virtuous excellences.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

1. One of the problems of politics is the relationship between ideal and real; between desirable and achievable; and between abstraction and concreteness. Since the dawn of the modern age, this relationship has reversed compared to the past, and the "ideal" became "utopianistic" from the "utopian".
2. The neologism "non-place/nonplace" coined by the French anthropologist Marc Auge understood as an ideal expression of political perfection, has found a typical description in the image of the "island", although with due differences due to the cultures of origin.

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

1. Cosmology is the philosophical reflection on our "existence-in-the world", on the immense material universe that surrounds us and of which we are an integral part.

Today's ecological crisis makes the philosophy of nature increasingly actual and urgent.

2. Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity (further confirmed with the recent discovery of gravitational waves) offers a revolutionary conception of the universe as a “tetra-dimensional reality of space-time”. However, it requires a philosophical evaluation from an epistemological and ontological point of view.

EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

1. For the Hindus, the *Bhagavad-Gita* is what the New Testament is to good Christians. In it many millions of Indians have for centuries found their principle source of religious inspiration. The context and key teachings of *Bhagavad-Gita*.

2. The Lord Buddha, the *Shakyamuni*, the sage of the *Shakya* distilled the principles of Enlightenment into a doctrine of the “Four Noble Truths”.

Part Two: HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

1. Key Platonic teachings in Anthropology, Ethics, Cosmology, Metaphysics, and Politics.
2. The search for truth according to Aristotle: *Metaphysics*, Book II, Chapter I.
3. The happiest life in Aristotle: *Metaphysics*, Book XII, Chapter VII.
4. The cosmos as an “ordered home” according to Aristotle: *Metaphysics*, Book XII, Chapter X.
5. Basic teaching of Neo-Platonist philosophers: Ammonius Saccas, Plotinus, Porphyry of Tyre and Christian Apologists.

HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

1. Main philosophical reflections of St. Augustine on Free will, Holy Trinity, *Confessions*, and *City of God*.
2. Structure and analysis of the “Four Ways” of St. Anselm demonstrating the existence of God in the *Monologion*.
3. Islamic Philosophical Tradition: Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina & Al-Ghazali.
4. St. Thomas Aquinas on God, Creation, Happiness, and Law.
5. Basic philosophical teachings of John Duns Scotus: The Infinite Being, The possibility of knowing God, Illumination and Universals

HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

1. Emmanuel Kant: the critique of the ontological proof in “Transcendental Dialectics”.
2. Emmanuel Kant: the argument of the intuition of the “a priori” forms of space and time in “Transcendental Aesthetics”.
3. What is the Copernican revolution that Kant claims to have worked in the gnoseological field?

4. Why does Kant define the “Ego” as a “legislator” of nature and science?
5. It illustrates Kant's criticism of the old conception of metaphysics, clarifying in what sense he does not deny its value, but reinterprets it in the light of the “limits of reason”.

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

1. In the investigation of the meaning of being, the analysis of Being (Dasein) is a preparatory and necessary moment. Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Chapter I.
2. Fundamental themes in Bertrand Russell (1872–1970), Jacques Derrida (1930–2004), Rudolf Carnap (1891–1970), and Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951).
3. Key Elements of Christian Philosophy in Etienne Gilson and Jacques Maritain.
4. Existentialism in the Continental Philosophical Tradition: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche & Dostoevsky.
5. History and the Principles of the Church’s Social Doctrine.