

**THESES OF SYSTEMATIC PHILOSOPHY**  
**FOR THE CONCLUSIVE FIRST CYCLE EXAM (2020-2021)**

**1. PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE**

1. The search for truth is a cognitive experience that requires attention to the totality of the reality.
2. The idea of "science", in some contemporary philosophies, is not free from presuppositions that require a critical evaluation.

**2. PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

1. Language is grafted within the constitutively relational structure of the human being, making the ontological characters evident of the dialogic "personalism".
2. The problematic of the relationship between logos and truth constitutes one of the most ancient aspects of the reflection of language of the West.

**3. THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY I / METAPHYSICS**

1. The experiential *datum* of the multiplicity, finiteness and contingency of existence requires a deepening of the emerging contents in the "fundamental ontological experience" and leads to the statement that the "id quod est", as multiple, finite and contingent, is intrinsically structured in two metaphysical principals: "the act of existence" and "the essence".
2. Among the transcendental laws of being, the "principle of causality and finality", constitute two complementary aspects, endowed with "ontological value, universal and necessary" of the principle of "reason of being".

**4. THEORETICAL PHILOSOPHY II / PHILOSOPHY OF GOD**

1. The existence of God is a truth that can be adequately argued from the 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.

**5. PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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

## **6. MORAL PHILOSOPHY**

1. The study of human conduct from the perspective of the “acting subject” allows us to identify the criteria for judging a good and virtuous life.
2. The “moral rule” can be articulated through virtuous excellences that are specifically different and harmonically connected.

## **7. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHICS**

1. One of the problems of politics is the relationship between the ideal and the real, between desirable and achievable, between abstraction and concreteness. Since the modern age this relationship has been reversed with respect to the past and the “ideal from utopian” has become “utopia”.
2. The “non-place”, understood as an ideal expression of “political perfection”, has found a typical description in the “image of the island”, although with due differences to the cultures of origin.

## **8. 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.

**THESES OF HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY**  
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**1. 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 teachings of Neo-Platonist philosophers: Ammonius Saccas, Plotinus, Porphyry of Tyre and Christian Apologists.

**2. 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.

**3. 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”.

**4. 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.