

790 PHILOSOPHY**1. INTRODUCTION:**

Advanced Level Philosophy is designed to introduce the learners to critical reflection on some selected areas of philosophical inquiry: Logic, History of Western Philosophy, African Philosophy, Textual Analysis and Philosophical Problems. This will enable the learners to acquire techniques in critical thinking and judgment, open discussion and reasoned debate, and objectivity that come with philosophical orientation.

2. AIMS: The aims of teaching Philosophy at the Advanced Level are:

- a To initiate and sensitize the learners to develop a critical and reflective mind as well as recognize, evaluate and distill arguments.
- b To develop in the learners an appreciation of different philosophical systems and to apply philosophical approaches to problems.
- c To introduce the learners to philosophical methods and the study of philosophical texts.
- d To enable the learners relate the understanding of the nature and development of the human being to relevant contemporary issues.

3. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- a Demonstrate a mastery of logical reasoning and skills.
- b Understand the major philosophical systems of Western Philosophy and their influence on issues of universal concern.
- c Demonstrate a sound familiarity with the core elements of African philosophical thought and practice.
- d Understand prescribed and 'unseen' philosophical texts and their practical implications.
- e Apply the methods and techniques of philosophical arguments, essays, discussions and debates.
- f Reflect methodically and critically on the various scientific, aesthetic, moral, political and religious values, and their implications for contemporary society.

4. ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The study of Philosophy at the Advanced Level shall enable the candidates to:

- i demonstrate the ability to evaluate and distill arguments, as well as identify, analyze and respond critically to various logical techniques.
- ii demonstrate an understanding of philosophical trends and their applications to contemporary situations.
- iii demonstrate the ability to make informed judgment about the logicity of a philosophical discourse.
- iv show the ability to analyze a philosophical text.

Assessment Objectives	Weighting Assessment Objectives
Lower Abilities (Knowledge and Understanding)	20 %
Application of Knowledge	35 %
Analysis and Synthesis	35 %
Evaluation	10 %

5. STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

Paper	Mode of Assessment	Weighting	No. of Questions	Duration	Remarks
I	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)	34 %	50	1 ½ hours	
II	Essays on Philosophical Issues: -Western Philosophy; - African Philosophy; - Philosophical Problems	33 %	12	3 hours	See details below
III	Problem-Solving and Analysis	33 %	7	3 hours	See details below

PAPER ONE: (MCQ)

This paper will cover the whole syllabus. Fifty (50) MCQ will be set. Candidates are expected to answer all the questions. Each question carries one (1) mark. The paper shall last for one and a half hours.

PAPER TWO: (Essays on Philosophical Issues)

This Paper will consist of three (3) Sections:

Section One: The History of Western Philosophy – made up of four sub-sections.

Candidates can specialize in any two of the sub-sections of Section 2 of the Syllabus Content.

Section Two: African Philosophy – it covers all of Section 3 of the Syllabus Content.

Section Three: Philosophical Problems – made up of four sub-sections.

Candidate can specialize in any two of the sub-sections of Section 5 of the Syllabus Content.

There will be twelve (12) questions. FIVE questions will be set on Section One, TWO questions on Section Two, and FIVE questions on Section Three.

Candidates shall be required to answer **FOUR** questions, choosing *notmore than two* questions from one section. *Each question carries 25 marks.* The paper shall last for three hours.

PAPER THREE: Problem-Solving and Analysis

This Paper will consist of two sections:

Section One: Logic – it covers the whole content of Section 1 of the Syllabus.

Section Two: Textual Study/Analysis- made up of two sub-sections. Sub-section One will be on the prescribed text of Section 4 of the Syllabus; Sub-section Two will consist of two other passages drawn from ‘unseen’ texts.

There will be SEVEN questions. A series of FOUR Problem-Solving questions will be set on Section One, and THREE questions will be set on Section Two.

Candidates shall be required to answer **FOUR** questions, choosing **TWO** questions from Section One, and **TWO** questions from Section Two; of which sub-section one shall be compulsory. *Each question carries 25 marks.* The paper shall last for three hours.

TOPIC

1. LOGIC

1.1 IMMEDIATE INFERENCE

- 1.1.1 Definition of Immediate Inference
- 1.1.2 Forms of Immediate Inference
- 1.1.3 Opposition
- 1.1.4 Education (Equivalence)

1.2 MEDIATE INFERENCE

- 1.2.1 Definition of Syllogism
- 1.2.2 The Value of the Syllogism
- 1.2.3 The Elements of the Syllogism
- 1.2.4 The General Rules and Fallacies of the Syllogism
- 1.2.5 The Figures and Moods of the Syllogism
- 1.2.6 Translating Arguments into Valid Standard Forms
- 1.2.7 Testing Validity by the Venn Diagram Technique

1.3 OTHER TYPES OF ARGUMENTS

- 1.3.1 The Enthymeme
- 1.3.2 The Sortes
- 1.3.3 Hypothetical Syllogism
- 1.3.4 Disjunctive Syllogism
- 1.3.5 The Dilemma

1.4 FALLACIES

- 1.4.1 Definition of Fallacies
- 1.4.2 Types of Fallacies
- 1.4.3 Deductive Informal Fallacies
 - a. Fallacies of Relevance
 - b. Fallacies of Ambiguity
- 1.4.4 Inductive Informal Fallacies

1.5 INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC

- 1.5.1 Argument-Forms and Arguments
- 1.5.2 Statement-Forms and Statements
- 1.5.3 Evaluating Extended Arguments by the Formal Proofs of Validity
- 1.5.4 Propositional Functions

1.6 INDUCTION ARGUMENTS

2. SUB-SECTION1:WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY AND REASONS FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT

2.2 THE PRE-SOCRATIC PERIOD

- 2.2.1 The Milesian School
- 2.2.2 The Later Ionians

2.2.3 The Eleatic School

2.2.4 The Sophists

2.2.5 Socrates

2.3 THE POST-SOCRATIC PERIOD

2.3.1 Plato

2.3.2 Aristotle

2.4 SUB-SECTION 2: SCHOLASTICISM

2.4.1 St. Thomas AQUINAS

2.5 EMPIRICISM

2.5.1 John LOCKE

2.6 RATIONALISM

2.6.1 René DESCARTES

2.7 SUB-SECTION GERMAN IDEALISM

2.7.1 Emmanuel KANT

2.8 MARXISM

2.8.1 Karl MARX

2.9 SUB-SECTION 4 PRAGMATISM

2.9.1 Charles Sanders PEIRCE

2.10 EXISTENTIALISM

2.10.1 Sorën KIERKEGAARD

2.10.2 Jean Paul SARTRE

3.

AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

3.1 PHILOSOPHY IN AFRICA

3.1.1 Definition of African Philosophy

3.1.2 African Oral Philosophy

3.2 TOPICAL ISSUES

3.2.1 *African Metaphysics*

a. The notion of Force-Being

b. The notion of Causation

b. Witchcraft

3.2.1.4 African Traditional Religion

3.2.2 *Historical Issues*

a. Pan- Africanism

b. Negritude

c. Consciencism

d. Colonialism

3.2.3 *Historical Issues*

- a. The African Identity and Personality
- b. Communalism and Ujama'a
- c. Democracy and Tribalism in Africa

4. TEXTUAL STUDIES

4.1 Rene DESCARTES: Discourse on Method

5. PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS

**5.1 SUB-SECTION 1
HUMANKIND AND NATURE**

- 5.1.1 Theories of Knowledge
- 5.1.2 The Scientific Method
- 5.1.3 The Philosophical Method
- 5.1.4 Theory of Arts (Aesthetics)
- 5.1.5 The Concept of Culture

**5.2 SUB-SECTION 2
HUMANKIND AND THE SELF**

- 5.2.1 Philosophical Anthropology
 - 5.2.1.1 Theories of the Origin of Humans
- 5.2.2 *Ethics*
 - a. Definition of Ethics
 - b. Principles of Ethics
- 5.2.3 *Ethical Issues*
 - a. Moral Responsibility and Freedom
 - b. Human Rights
 - c. Abortion
 - d. Violence
 - e. The HIV/AIDS Pandemic

**5.3 SUB-SECTION 3
HUMANKIND AND SOCIETY**

- 5.3.1 Political Philosophy
 - a. Definition
 - b. The State
- c. Government
- d. Law and Justice

**5.4 SUB-SECTION 4
HUMANKIND AND RELIGION**

- 5.4.1 Philosophy and Religion
- 5.4.2 The Proofs of God's Existence and Non-Existence
- 5.4.3 The Attributes (Nature) of God
- 5.4.4 The Problem of Evil
- 5.4.5 Death and Human Destiny

N.B. SELECTED LOGICAL SYMBOLS IN USE

Negation(\sim)

Conjunction (\cdot)

Disjunction or Alternation (\vee)

Material Implication(\supset)

Bi-Conditional or Equivalence (\equiv)

6. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR A/L PHILOSOPHY

- (a) A good pass in Ordinary Level Logic;
- (b) A pass in at least 4 subjects in either the Arts or Science combinations.

7.TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCES

1. Copi M.I. and Cohen: Introduction to Logic, Macmillan Co. Inc., N.Y., 1999.
Layman C. Stephen: The Power of Logic, McGraw Hill Higher Education, N.Y., 2005.
2. Moore Brooke Noel and Parker Richard: Critical Thinking, McGraw Hill Higher Education, N.Y., 2000.
3. Stumpf S.E.: Philosophy : History and Problems N.Y., McGraw Hill, 1983, (updated Edition)
4. Bentley, J.E. : Philosophy – An Outline History, Littlefield, Adam & Co, Parterson, New Jersey, U.S.A. 1960.
5. Wiredu, Kwasi (Ed): A Companion to African Philosophy , Blackwell Publishing Ltd.,

Oxford, 2004.

6. K.C. Anyanwu& ERuch: African Philosophy, Catholic Book Agency, Rome, 1984.
7. Mbiti J. S.: African Religion and Philosophy, London, 1969.
8. Fagothey A. :Ethics in Theory and Practice, St Louis, The C.V. Mosby Co., 1976.
9. Peter Singer: Practical Ethics, Cambridge, 1993.
10. Lawhead William F.: The Philosophical Journey, An Interactive Approach, McGraw Hill Higher Education, N.Y., 2005.
11. Descartes Rene: Meditations on First Philosophy, I and II, (updated Edition).