

Philosophy 2
0790

CAMEROON GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD

General Certificate of Education Examination

JUNE 2020

ADVANCED LEVEL

Subject Title	PHILOSOPHY
Paper No./Title	Paper 2 (Philosophical Culture)
Subject Code No.	0790

GCE REVISION

Three hours

Candidates are expected to answer FOUR (04) questions chosen from the three sections imperatively.

Each essay must contain:

- An introduction = 5 marks
- A thesis = 7 marks
- An antithesis = 6 marks
- A synthesis = 3 marks
- A conclusion = 4 marks

Each question carries 25 marks.

Candidates are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation of material.

<http://www.gcerevision.com>

Turn Over

SECTION ONE: WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

1. “Though their views were different, their main focus was on the universe.” Discuss this assertion with reference to the Milesian cosmologists. (25 marks)

2. Critically examine the Sartrean view that: “Existence precedes essence.” (25 marks)

SECTION TWO: AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

3. African communalism promotes human well-being. Assess the tenability of this assertion. (25 marks)

4. Pan-Africanism is responsible for the restoration of the African’s dignity. Critically evaluate this view. (25 marks)

SECTION THREE: TEXTUAL STUDIES / ANALYSIS

Sub-Section One: RENÉ DESCARTES: Meditations on First Philosophy

5. *Read the following passage and answer the questions below:*

“It is no surprise that God in creating me should have placed this idea in me, to serve as a mark of the craftsman stamped on his work (not that he needed any mark other than the work itself). But the mere fact that God created me is a good reason for thinking that I am somehow made in his image and likeness, and that I perceive that likeness in the same way that I perceive myself. That is, when I turn my mind's eye upon myself, I understand that I am a thing that is incomplete and dependent on something else, and which aspires without limit to ever greater and better things; but I also understand at the same time that he on whom I depend has within him all those greater things, and hence that he is God. The core of the argument is this: I couldn't exist with the nature that I have that is, containing within me the idea of God if God didn't really exist. By 'God' I mean the very being-the idea of whom is within me- the one that has no defects and has all those perfections that I can't grasp, but can somehow touch with my thought.”

Questions

- (a) State the main theme and its logical articulations in the text. (5 marks)
- (b) Explain the following:
 - (i) “to serve as a mark of the craftsman stamped on his work.”
 - (ii) “By 'God' I mean the very being the idea of whom is within me.” (4 marks)
- (c) What precisely is Descartes' Trademark Argument all about? (3 marks)
- (d) State two reasons why the Cartesian Doubt is important. (4 marks)
- (e) What does Descartes prescribe as a formula for the attainment of truth? (4 marks)
- (f) How tenable is Descartes' argument? (5 marks)

Sub-Section Two: TEXT ON AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY**6. Read the following passage and answer the questions below:**

The nature of knowledge emerging from this relation between metaphysics and epistemology is such that knowledge is *awareness* of that which is known and can be known. It is also *awareness* of that which cannot be known and unknowable. What is unknown and unknowable indicates the irreducible component of a transcendent reality, which is integral to how knowledge was conceived by the indigenous African. A warrant for this is rooted in a felt sense that there are spiritual components to nature that influence experiences and perceptions. Underlying this perspective is a commitment to the existence of *realities* that can, and do, act as causal agents. Akin to this are *unobservables*, which refer to purported objects, theoretical posits, that cannot be accessed through the senses or through the enhancement of those same senses, but which constitute explanatory constructs of reality. As such, the conception of knowledge by the indigenous African “incorporates the reality that exists beyond the five senses” such that the African, the acquisition of knowledge involves immersion in the universe until meaning is revealed, expressed and understood through complex and multi dimensional symbols. In conceiving knowledge, therefore the African does not see man and nature as two separate and opposing entities, but as an inseparable continuum of a hierarchical order.

**“Epistemic Insight from an African Way of Knowing” by Peter A. Ikhane
in *Themes, Issues and Problems in African Philosophy* ed by Isaac Ukpokolo.**

Questions

- (a) State precisely the theme and clearly bring out the logical articulations of the above text. (5 marks)
- (b) With your philosophical background, clearly explain the following as used in the text:
- i. “metaphysics and epistemology”;
 - ii. “an inseparable continuum of a hierarchical order”.
- (4 marks)
- (c) What does the author mean by: “incorporates the reality that exists beyond the five senses,” in the passage? (4 marks)
- (d) Compare and contrast this conception of knowledge with “Rationalism” and “Empiricism” as theories of knowledge (4 marks)
- (e) What do you understand by: “indigenous African conception of knowledge” (4 marks)
- (f) What is the place of such a conception in the present world of advanced science and technology? (4 marks)
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