GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD

General Certificate of Education Examination

Philosophy 2
0790

JUNE 2022 **ADVANCED LEVEL**

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

Three hours

Candidates are required to answer FOUR (04) questions, chosen from the three Sections imperatively.

Each essay question shall be marked according to the following criteria:

- *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.

You are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation in your answers.

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SECTION ONE: WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

1. The Pre-socratics were considered as material monists. Discuss the tenability of this statement. **(25 marks)**

2. To the Empiricists, the senses alone account for all our knowledge. Basing your reflection on John Locke, to what extent is this claim justifiable? **(25 marks)**

SECTION TWO: AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

3. "Negritude was a rallying point and part of a language of resistance to the stereotype of Black African People" Is this fair assessment of Senghor's Negritude? **(25 marks)**

4. In African political thought, democracy is still an illusion. Do you agree? **(25 marks)**

SECTION THREE: TEXTUAL ANALYSES

5. ***Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:***

That the notions which are simplest and self-evident, are obscured by logical definitions; and that such are not to be reckoned among the cognitions acquired by study, but as born with us. I do not here explain several other terms which I have used, or design to use in the sequel, because their meaning seems to me sufficiently self-evident. And I frequently remarked that philosophers erred in attempting to explain, by logical definitions, such as are most simple and self-evident; for they thus only rendered them more obscure. And when I said that the proposition, I think therefore I am, is of all others the first and most certain which occurs to one philosophizing orderly, I did not therefore deny that it was necessary to know what thought, existence, and certitude are, and the truth that, in order to think, it is necessary to be, and the like; but, because these are the most simple notions, and such as of themselves afford the knowledge of nothing existing. I did not judge it proper there to enumerate them.

The Principles of Philosophy
Rene Descartes

Questions

a) State the main theme and bring out the logical articulations in the text. **(5 marks)**
b) Explain the following as used in the passage:
   (i) "but as born with us"
   (ii) "by logical definitions, such truths as are most simple and self-evident"
c) State and explain any two kinds of ideas used by Descartes. **(4 marks)**
d) State and explain any two Rules of Method prescribed by Descartes. **(4 marks)**
e) How is Rationalism different from Empiricism? **(4 marks)**
f) How tenable is Descartes' Principles of Philosophy? **(4 marks)**

Sub Section Two: Text on African Philosophy

6. ***Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:***

The undermining of folk thinking and past beliefs and practices is the first step towards modernization. Development lies in transition from particularism to a universal, scientific culture. Many scholars have come to reprove the Western model because it has so far failed. Failure exposes the bare fact that Westernization is merely a continuation of the colonial model. The fact that in post-colonial Africa the model has become the goal of native ruling elite which does not change its nature. So long as Africa is not after its own self, armed with its own beliefs and myths, development is still a civilising mission. To conclude, the dismissal of folk thinking and past beliefs and practices and the conception of the latter as worldly corroboration of the former advise the replacement of the suppression of traditions. In this way, culture change is promoted through the commitment to tradition rather than its denial. Neither Westernization nor careful borrowings really change an inherited personality; they simply burden it with dualism. Also, the attempt to wipe out the legacy is futile and humanly suicidal. In return, what is viable is the alteration of the past, the manner the legacy is received. This amounts to renovating identity and not solving any conflicts.

The African Philosophical Conflicts and Development
Juma Frederick Okoiti

Questions

a) State the main theme and bring out the logical articulations in the text. **(5 marks)**
b) Explain the following as used in the passage:
   (i) "folk thinking and past beliefs and practices".
   (ii) "culture change is promoted through the commitment …rather than its denial". **(4 marks)**
c) State and briefly explain any two major trends in African philosophy. **(4 marks)**
d) State and briefly explain two major Western critiques of the 'indigenous African' perception of Philosophy **(4 marks)**
e) Name any two Cameroonian philosophers and their main theses. **(4 marks)**
f) What role can philosophy play in African renaissance? **(4 marks)**

GO BACK AND CHECK YOUR WORK