

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Final Examination Semester I  
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

**HFA 101 – Introduction to Philosophy**

Duration: 3 hours

Please ensure that this final examination paper consists of **THREE** pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer **THREE** questions only. **ONE** question from Section A, **ONE** question from Section B, and **ONE** question from either SECTION A **OR** B.

Please make sure you answer questions from Sections A and B in separate answer booklets.

## Section A

Parts [a], [b] and [c] of each question have equal weightage.

1. In Plato's dialogue entitled "Meno", Socrates said that "a man would not seek what he knows, for since he knows it there is no need of the inquiry, nor what he does not know, for in that case he does not even know what he is to look for".
  - [a] What is Socrates resolution to the above problem?
  - [b] What arguments does Socrates put forth to support his view in relation to the above problem?
  - [c] Do you agree with Socrates? Provide good reasons or arguments to support your view.
  
2. According to Plato, although man perceives individual particular objects in this world, he nevertheless has knowledge of general ideas or concepts.
  - [a] How does Plato explain the fact that man possesses knowledge of general ideas or concepts?
  - [b] What arguments does Plato put forth to support his view?
  - [c] Do you agree with Plato? Provide good reasons or arguments to support your view.
  
3. In Ibn Sina's metaphysical thought, *wujud* and *mahiyyah* are two fundamental concepts.
  - [a] What does Ibn Sina mean by *wujud* and *mahiyyah*?
  - [b] According to Ibn Sina, are *wujud* and *mahiyyah* a unity?
  - [c] What are the importance and significance of Ibn Sina's discussions on [a] and [b] to metaphysics?

**Bahagian B**

4. [a] Explain the concept of *Tao*, especially the relationship between *Tao* and the two notions of *You* and *Wu*.  
[50 marks]
- [b] *Yin-Yang* is a dialectical polarity. Explain the meaning of dialectical polarity and give a thorough explanation on the theory of “procession and return”.  
[50 marks]
5. [a] Discuss the understanding of *wu-wei* within the epistemological perspective.  
[50 marks]
- [b] Explain with an illustration how *Yin-Yang* can be combined with the concept of *wu-wei* to clarify the ethical perspective of *wu-wei*.  
[50 marks]
6. [a] What do you understand by Nietzsche’s idea of the “Eternal Return”?  
[20 marks]
- [b] Explain the meeting of the two concepts – perspectivism and pragmatism - within the philosophy of Nietzsche. Critically assess these two concepts.  
[40 marks]
- [c] Discuss the differences between Nietzsche’s “master morality” and “slave morality”. Ensure to consider the notion of “the will-to-power.”  
[40 marks]