4 empiricism

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE MY PERSONAL EXAM PREP NOTES. ANSWERS ARE TAKEN FROM LECTURER MEMO'S, STUDENT ANSWERS, DROP BOX, MY OWN, ETC. THIS DOCUMENT CAN NOT

EDC1015	EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo
	MULTIPLE CHOICE
TUTORIAL LETTER 20	16 SEMESTER 2
Question 1	
l inquietic analysis is <i>c</i>	concerned with the following question:
Liliguistic allalysis is t	concerned with the following question.
1. What is the meaning	of this word or sentence?
Question 2	
The first philosopher v	vho challenged us to think clearly was
2. Plato	
2. 1 1010	
Question 3	
Symbolic logic is used	I to express any statement that is
1. true or false by defir	n <mark>ition</mark>
QUESTION 4	
QUEUTION 4	
What method of enqui	ry in philosophy asserts that experience gained through
the five senses (seeing	g, touching, hearing, smelling and tasting) is the basis o

#### **QUESTION 5**

Why, according to linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem, no matter how hard we try?

1. Because we are dealing with a false problem.

## **QUESTION 6**

What else besides linguistic analysis did the philosophical movement focus on?

3. Logic

#### **QUESTION 7**

**Empiricists ask the following question** 

3. How do I know that something is true?

#### **QUESTION 8**

What is one of the major tasks of philosophy?

1. Analysing statements.

#### **QUESTION 9**

The method of enquiry adopted by critical rationalists is ....

1 a questioning attitude and the encouragement of open-mindedness

## EDC1015 **EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo QUESTION 10** In its search for the truth, critical rationalism tends to focus on .... 3 identifying error and falsity in human endeavours **QUESTION 11** The essential problem addressed by critical rationalism is .... 2 the exposition of error in the search for truth **QUESTION 12** An open society is characterised by .... 2 problem-solving through debate **QUESTION 13** An advantage of critical rationalism is that it allows us to .... 2 criticise those in authority **QUESTION 14** Critical rationalism sets out to help us .... 1 to solve problems

#### **QUESTION 15**

The method of enquiry in philosophy that asserts that there is no meaning in life is called ... .

3 nihilism

#### **QUESTION 16**

The method of enquiry in philosophy that encourages humans to enjoy life more and to take personal responsibility for their future is known as ....

4 existentialism

## **QUESTION 17**

According to existentialists, the term "education" refers mainly to helping learners to ....

4 discover for themselves their own life's meaning

#### **QUESTION 18**

Which method of enquiry in philosophy emphasises knowledge about the self in a social and natural context?

3 Existentialism

#### **QUESTION 19**

The method of enquiry adopted by existentialism is the ....

2 exploration of the meaning of life

## **QUESTION 20**

In its discourse, existentialism tends to focus on ....

4 clarification of the purpose of life

#### **TUTORIAL LETTER 2017 SEMESTER 1**

#### QUESTION 1

What is one of the major tasks of philosophy?

#### (1) Analysing statements

#### **QUESTION 2**

Linguistic analysis was based on the thinking of:

#### (3) Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell

## **QUESTION 3**

The philosophy that concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words is known as:

#### (1) Linguistic analysis

#### **QUESTION 4**

One of the benefits of espousing critical rationalism is that ...

(1) it encourages us to examine our own opinions more carefully.

#### **QUESTION 5**

Indicate the true statement.

(3) Another name for critical rationalism is scientific rationalism.

#### **QUESTION 6**

In its discourse, existentialism tends to focus on the ...

(4) clarification of the purpose of life.

#### **QUESTION 7**

An important limitation of existentialism as a theoretical framework is ...

(2) that it tends to make us too trusting.

#### **QUESTION 8**

Which philosophical method of enquiry identifies the "triple layer of oppression"?

#### (2) African feminism

#### **QUESTION 9**

The "triple layer of oppression" refers to the combined oppression of:

(3) Colonial, African patriarchal and Western patriarchal cultures

## **QUESTION 10**

Proponents of feminism can be characterised by their assertion that ...

(2) women have been and are denied their human rights.

#### **QUESTION 11**

The essential problem critical theory addresses is ...

(1) how to change the system and the world into a better place.

## **QUESTION 12**

The whole spectrum of power relations and structures is studied by proponents of ...

(4) critical theory.

## **QUESTION 13**

Critical theory is characterised by a recognition of ...

(3) the oppressive nature of all forms of power.

#### **QUESTION 14**

Which of the following characteristics applies to systems theory?

(1) It sees things as a whole.

#### **QUESTION 15**

The method of enquiry adopted by African philosophy includes the use of ...

(1) sage, ethnic and political methods of enquiry.

## **QUESTION 16**

As a philosophy "Ubuntu" is related to ...

(3) peaceful coexistence.

#### **QUESTION 17**

Which of the following is an important advantage in following or recognising the beliefs of African philosophy?

(2) It provides a framework by which communities can be strengthened.

#### Question 18

Which of the following questions would a phenomenologist ask?

## (1) Who am I?

#### Question 19

The essential problem addressed by hermeneutics is ...

(2) the understanding and discovery of meaning.

#### Question 20

The methods of enquiry used by postmodernists include ...

(4) hermeneutics and phenomenology.

#### **TUTORIAL LETTER 2017 SEMESTER 2**

#### Question 1

Why, according to Linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem, no matter how hard we try?

(1) Because we are dealing with a false problem.

#### Question 2

What method of enquiry in philosophy asserts that experience gained through the five senses (seeing, touching, hearing, smelling and tasting) is the basis of all knowledge?

## (4) empiricism

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#### **Question 3**

Which method of enquiry is concerned with questioning and open mindedness?

#### (3) critical rationalism

#### Question 4

According to critical rationalists the term "education" would refer mainly to helping learners to

## (3) critically evaluate everything they read and hear

## Question 5

Critical rationalism had its origin in

#### (1) Ancient Greece

#### Question 6

Nihilists proclaim that

## (4) life has no purpose to it

#### Question 7

What method of enquiry in philosophy is concerned with the question of the meaning or purpose of life?

#### (2) existentialism

#### Question 8

The method of enquiry in philosophy that encourages humans to enjoy life more and to take personal responsibility for their future is....

#### (4) existentialism

#### **Question 9**

Learning is a process leading to the liberation of women in a patriarchal dispensation. Which method of enquiry does this statement relate to?

#### (1) feminism

#### Question 10

Which of the following is an important characteristic of Feminism?

#### (4) Human experience is seriously affected by male domination.

#### Question 11

On which of the following concerns does critical theory focus in its search for truth?

#### (4) A concern with the influence of power structures on human existence.

#### Question 12

Which of the following statements is correct with regard to critical theory?

#### (2) Marxism is a form of critical theory.

#### Question 13

Theoretical frameworks tend to have their origins within particular cultures that have experienced unique or specific problems. Which of the following cultures have fostered the development of Critical Theory?

#### (3) European

#### Question 14

"To see things as a whole rather than to split it up into parts". Which philosophy does this statement refer to?

#### (2) systems theory

#### Question 15

Which of the following characteristics applies to systems theory?

#### (3) It works towards a goal.

#### Question 16

The central idea in traditional African thought is

## (1) "ubuntu"

#### Question 17

As a method of enquiry, ethnic philosophy is associated with

#### (3) African Philosophy

#### Question 18

Which philosophy asserts that the biggest challenge facing human beings is our need to confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity?

- (1) modernism
- (2) phenomenology
- (3) postmodernism
- (4) hermeneutics

#### Question 19

A significant characteristic of hermeneutics relates to its emphasis on

#### (1) the importance of listening and observation

#### Question 20

Which philosophy would regard education as being largely an evaluation of the role of science and technology?

#### (4) postmodernism

#### **TUTORIAL LETTER 2018 SEMESTER 1**

#### QUESTION 1

Linguistic analysis is concerned with which one of the following questions?

#### 1. What is the meaning of this word or sentence?

#### **QUESTION 2**

Linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together form the philosophy that is known as .....

4. Logical empiricism

## **QUESTION 3**

What is based on the empirical belief that what is true is confirmed or disproved by sense experience?

2. Modern science

#### **QUESTION 4**

In its search for the truth, critical rationalism tends to focus on 1 .

3. identifying error and falsity in human endeavours

#### QUESTION 5

One of the benefits of espousing Critical Rationalism is that | | .

1. it encourages us to examine our own opinions more carefully

#### **QUESTION 6**

An important benefit in espousing Existentialism is that it 1 .

1. encourages us to become more open about ourselves

#### **QUESTION 7**

Existentialism, as a theoretical framework, benefits us in that it | |

4. encourages us to question other people's ideas and values

#### **QUESTION 8**

The method of enquiry adopted by African Philosophy includes the use of:

1. Sage, ethnic and political methods of enquiry

## **QUESTION 9**

African Philosophy, in its search for truth, focuses on concerns relating to 1 .

3. the establishment of an African identity

#### **QUESTION 10**

Which of the following is an important characteristic of Critical Theory?

1. It claims that all forms of power are oppressive.

#### **QUESTION 11**

Which of the following does Critical Theory allow us to do?

1. It helps us to realistically assess power structures.

#### **QUESTION 12**

Feminism provides researchers with many benefits, one of which is 1 .

3. giving women courage and significant moral power

#### **QUESTION 13**

"A theoretical framework which can investigate and analyse the impact of gender on human and social interaction". Which method of enquiry does this statement refer to?

#### 1. Feminism

#### Question 14

Which philosophy asserts that the biggest challenge facing human beings is our need to confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity?

#### 2. Phenomenology

#### Question 15

Which of the following questions would a phenomenologist ask?

#### 1. Who am I?

#### Question 16

A significant characteristic of Hermeneutics relates to its emphasis on 1 .

#### 1. the importance of listening and observation

_	_	
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#### Question 17

Hermeneutics can be characterised by a concern for 1 .

2. the individual creating own meaning

#### Question 18

The methods of enquiry used by Postmodernists include 1 .

4. Hermeneutics and Phenomenology

#### Question 19

An important characteristic of Postmodernism relates to its 1 .

4. questioning the value and value-systems that underpin science and technology

#### Question 20

Postmodernism is beneficial to researchers in that it enables them to:

4. question the claims of a rigid morality

#### **TUTORIAL 201 2012 SEMESTER 1 & 2**

#### **Question 1**

What is one of the major tasks of philosophy?

### 1. Analysing statements

#### **Question 2**

The first philosopher who challenged us to think clearly was......

#### 2. Plato

#### **Question 3**

Linguistic analysis was based on the thinking of:

#### 3. Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell

#### Question4

Which method of enquiry is concerned with questioning and open mindedness?

#### 3. Critical Rationalism

#### **Question 5**

According to Critical Rationalists the term 'education' would refer mainly to helping learners to ....

## 3. critically evaluate everything they read and hear

#### **Question 6**

According to existentialists, the term 'education' would refer mainly to helping learners to ....

#### 4. discover for themselves their own life's meaning

#### **Question 7**

Nihilists proclaim that ....

## 4. Life has no purpose to it

#### **Question 8**

What is the essential problem of Black Existentialism?

#### 3. Why is there such a universal sense of inferiority of the Black races?

#### **Question 9**

Critical Rationalism had its origin in ...

#### 1. Ancient Greece

#### **Question 10**

The method of enquiry in philosophy that generally leads to a particular rather than general truth is ...

#### 3. Existentialism

#### **Question 11**

The method of enquiry in philosophy that encourages humans to enjoy life more and to take personal responsibility for their future is ...

#### 4. Existentialism

#### **Question 12**

Language analysis in Logical Empiricism indicates...

## 4. factual thinking

#### **Question 13**

Logical Empiricism originated in ...

#### 1. Britain and the United States of America

#### **Question 14**

In this philosophical position education means the acquisition of the ability to do linguistic analysis and think critically...

#### 3. Logical Empiricism

#### **Question 15**

....claims that almost all philosophical problems can be dispensed with once their underlying linguistic basis is exposed.

#### 4. Linguistic analysis

#### **Question 16**

Linguistic analysis is concerned with the question:

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1. What is the meaning of this word or sentence
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#### **Question 17**

In its search for the truth, Critical Rationalism tends to focus on ....

## 3. identifying error and falsity in human endeavours

#### **Question 18**

Critical Rationalism benefits us in that ....

## 2. it allows us to be more tolerant and understanding of others

#### **Question 19**

Indicate the true statement.

#### 3. Another name for Critical Rationalism is Scientific Rationalism

#### **Question 20**

What did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis also focus on?

#### 3. Logic

#### **Question 21**

Symbolic logic is used to express any statement that is......

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## 1. True or false by definition

#### **Question 22**

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What method of enquiry in philosophy asserts that our experience is the basis of all knowledge?

## 4. Empiricism

#### **Question 23**

Linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together form the philosophy that is known as ......

#### 4. Logical empiricism

#### **Question 24**

What is the aim of logic in philosophy?

#### 2. To arrive at the basic structure of truth

#### **Question 25**

Empiricists ask the following question:

#### 3. How do I know that something is true?

2. search for the truth

# **EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo** EDC1015 **TUTORIAL LETTER 2018 SEMESTER 2 2018 QUESTION 1** What is based on the empirical belief that what is true is confirmed or disproved by sense experience? 2. Modern science **QUESTION 2** Empiricists ask the following question: 3. How do I know that something is true? **QUESTION 3** Two of the most important sources of truth for empiricism are 1 . 4. the senses and direct experience **QUESTION 4** Both Empiricism and Critical Rationalism | .

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#### **QUESTION 5**

One of the benefits of espousing Critical Rationalism is that 1 .

1. it encourages us to examine our own opinions more carefully

#### **QUESTION 6**

Critical Rationalism benefits us in that | |

2. it allows us to be more tolerant and understanding of others

#### **QUESTION 7**

An important limitation of Existentialism as a theoretical framework is 1 .

2. that it tends to make us too trusting

#### **QUESTION 8**

Indicate the correct statement about what a Nihilist is. It is a person who | | .

1. believes that life has no meaning

#### **QUESTION 9**

The essential problem addressed by African Philosophy refers to. | 1 .

2. the placement of the African world in perspective

#### **QUESTION 10**

One of the benefits of espousing an African philosophical perspective relates to 1 .

#### 2. the encouragement of human beings to show greater humility

#### **QUESTION 11**

Which of the following concerns does Critical Theory focus on in its search for truth?

#### 4. A concern with the influence of power structures on human existence.

#### **QUESTION 12**

The essential problem addressed by Critical Theory is 1 .

## 1. how to change the system and the world into a better place

#### **QUESTION 13**

Individuals have certain innate human rights. Which philosophical position does this statement refer to?

#### 2. Feminism

#### **QUESTION 14**

First Wave Feminism has links with which of the following methods of enquiry?

#### 1. Critical Theory and Critical Rationalism

Question 15

Which of the following questions would you associate with Phenomenology?

#### 3. Who and what is my community?

Question 16

Which of the following does Phenomenology allow us to do? It gives us 1 .

#### 1. an increased understanding and assessment of ourselves

Question 17

By using the skills that Hermeneutics gives us, we are able to  $\ensuremath{\,!\!|}$  .

#### 4. discover our own hidden, creative and artistic abilities

Question 18

'A person's happiness is linked with her own creativity and cultural context.' Which philosophy does this statement relate to?

#### 3. Hermeneutics

Question 19

Which philosophy would make the claim that 'Science has improved the lives of human beings'?

#### 1. Modernism

Question 20

'The quality of our lives can be reassessed.' Which philosophy does this idea relate to?

#### 1. Postmodernism

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **SECTION A - MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. The philosophy that concentrates on finding the exact meaning of words is known as...

#### **Answer: 1. linguistic analysis**

2. ----- claims that almost all philosophical problems can be dispensed with once their underlying linguistic analysis is exposed.

#### **Answer: 4. linguistic analysis**

3. Why, according to linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem no matter how hard we try?

#### Answer: 1. because we are dealing with a false problem.

4. Feminism encourages us to......

#### Answer: 4. challenge limited roles.

5. Empiricism claimed that metaphysical statements are.....

#### **Answer: 1. false**

6. The essential problem dealt with by Postmodernism relates to.....

### Answer: 2. the need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

7. Hermeneutics is primarily concerned with....

## Answer: 3. understanding.

8. Which one of the following statements is correct?

#### **Answer: 4. Hermeneutics does not accept dogmatism.**

9. Phenomenology focuses on the....

#### **Answer: 3. present**

10. Hermeneutics states that....

#### **Answer: 2. We should not treat history and documents as things.**

11. According to phenomenology, in order to get to the truth we have to discard...

## **Answer: 2. misconceptions**

12. For Hermeneutics education is.....

#### Answer: about sense experience.

13. Which one of the following Phenomenologists used the phrase 'skewed hierarchy'?

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#### **Answer: Jacques Derrida**

14. By using Hermeneutic method we will produce learners who are....

#### **Answer: 1. creative thinkers**

15. Which of the following statements best captures what Systems Theory is about?

#### Answer: 2. it sees the world as a problem-solving process.

16. Which method of enquiry is concerned with questioning and openmindedness?

#### **Answer: 3. critical rationalism**

17. Who is the most famous representative of critical rationalism?

### **Answer: Karl Popper**

18. According to critical rationalists, the term 'education' would refer mainly to helping learners to.....

#### Answer: 3. critically evaluate everything they read and hear.

19. Which method of enquiry in philosophy emphasizes relative knowledge – knowledge that is true under particular circumstances?

#### **Answer: Critical Rationalism**

20. The method of enquiry adopted by critical rationalists is ....

#### Answer: 1. a questioning attitude and the encouragement of openmindedness.

21. In its search for truth, critical rationalism tends to focus on....

Answer: 3. identifying error and falsity in human endeavours.

22. Existentialism is a theoretical framework that is characterized by its...

Answer: 4. asking us how we wish to spend our lives.

23. An important benefit in espousing Existentialism is that it....

Answer: 1. encourages us to become more open about ourselves.

24. Existentialism, as a theoretical framework, benefits us in that it.....

Answer: 4. encourages us to question other people's ideas and values.

25. An important limitation of Existentialism as a theoretical framework is that

**Answer: 2. it tends to make us too trusting.** 

26. Which one of the following questions does Existentialism ask?

Answer: 3. what is the meaning of life?

27. Indicate the correct statement. What can Existentialism help us to do?

Answer: 3. be more open about ourselves.

28. Indicate the correct statement about what a Nihilist is. It is a person who

#### Answer: 1. believes that life has no meaning.

29. Which of the following is an important advantage in following or recognizing the beliefs of African philosophy?

#### Answer: 2. it provides a framework by which communities can be strengthened.

30. The method of enquiry adopted by African philosophy includes the use of

#### Answer: 1. Sage, ethnic and political methods of enquiry.

31. African philosophy, in its search for truth, focuses on concerns relating to

#### **Answer: 3. the establishment of an African identity.**

32. The essential problem dealt with by African philosophy relates to

#### **Answer: 2. the placement of the African world in perspective.**

33. A significant characteristic of African philosophy relates to concerns with

#### Answer: 3. who and what my community is as an African.

34. An African philosophical perspective enables researchers to

#### Answer: 1. challenge the West's claim to cultural superiority.

35. Which of the following characteristics is most representative of Critical Theory?

## Answer: 2. it provides a realistic assessment of the influence of power structures.

36. Education, from a Critical Theory perspective, would emphasise

Answer: 1. a system in which existing political, social and economic structures are critically examined and evaluated.

37. Which of the following is an important characteristic of Critical Theory?

Answer: 3. it claims that all forms of power are repressive.

38. Which of the following is a characteristic of Critical Theory?

Answer: 3. our viewpoints are often the cause of our power or powerlessness.

39. Which of the following is a characteristic of Critical Theory?

Answer: 3. Social, economic and political systems have to be questioned.

40. Which method of enquiry in philosophy concerns itself with the interaction between human beings and the world in which they live?

#### **Answer: 4. Phenomenology.**

41. Which philosophy insists that a personal reality is only possible in relation to some other?

#### **Answer: 4. Phenomenology.**

42. Which philosophy asserts that the biggest challenge facing human beings is our need to confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity?

## Answer: Phenomenology.

43. Which of the following questions would a Phenomenologist ask?

#### Answer: 1. Who am I?

44. Which method of enquiry would tend to regard education as being largely concerned with the assigning of meaning in all fields of human endeavour?

#### **Answer: 3. hermeneutics.**

45. According to which philosophical position would the educator specifically focus on assisting learners to construct personal meaning?

#### **Answer: 2. Hermeneutics.**

46. Hermeneutics, as a method of philosophical enquiry, relates to

#### Answer: 4. the understanding and interpretation of signs and symbols.

47. Hermeneutics, in its search for truth, focuses on

#### Answer: 3. questions of meaning and significance.

48. Which method of enquiry in philosophy would regard education as being largely the induction of learners into the knowledge and methods of science?

#### **Answer: 3. modernism**

49. The methods of enquiry used by postmodernists include

#### **Answer: Phenomenology and Hermeneutics.**

50. In its search for truth Postmodernism focuses on

**Answer: 2. the influence of power structures on human existence.** 

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **SECTION A: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. The philosophy that concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words is known as...

#### **ANSWER: a. linguistic analysis**

2. Why, according to linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem no matter how hard we try?

#### ANSWER: a. because we are dealing with a false problem.

3. Linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together form the philosophy that is known as...

#### **ANSWER: d. logical empiricism**

4 .According to critical rationalists, the term 'education' would refer mainly to helping learners to...

#### ANSWER: c. critically evaluate everything they read and hear.

5. Critical Rationalism encourages....

## **ANSWER: d. democracy**

- 6. In its search for the truth, critical rationalism tends to focus on...
- c) Identifying error and falsity in human endeavours.
- 7. Which one of the following is the essential problem of black existentialism?

ANSWER: c. Why is there such a universal sense of inferiority of the black races?

8. According to existentialists, the term "education" would refer mainly to helping learners to...

ANSWER: d. discover their own life's meaning for themselves.

9. Existentialism asks one of the following questions:

ANSWER: c. what is the meaning of life?

10. Julius Nyerere's idea of "ujamaa" is a clear example of...

ANSWER: c. African social and political communalism.

11. The method of enquiry adopted by African communalism includes the use of...

ANSWER: a. sage, ethnic and political methods of enquiry.

12. African philosophy has its roots in...

ANSWER: c. an oral tradition.

13. Which method of enquiry in African philosophy identifies the "triple layer of oppression"?

#### **ANSWER: b. African feminism**

14. The "triple layer of oppression" refers to the combined oppression by...

#### ANSWER: c. Colonial, African patriarchal and western patriarchal Cultures.

15. The essential problem addressed by feminism relates to...

#### ANSWER: d. how to place the women's world in perspective.

16. Which of the following characteristics applies to systems theory?

#### ANSWER: a. it sees things as a whole.

17. Critical theory claims that truth is...

#### ANSWER: c. achieved through reasoning.

18. Critical theory claims that...

#### ANSWER: a. all forms of power are oppressive.

19. Which method of enquiry in philosophy concerns itself with the interaction between human beings and the world in which they live?

## ANSWER: d. phenomenology

20. Which of the following questions would a phenomenologist ask?

## ANSWER: a. Who am I?

21. The method of enquiry adopted by phenomenologists relates to...

#### ANSWER: b. reflecting on ourselves and the world in which we live.

22. Which method of enquiry in philosophy is concerned with the interpretation of signs and symbols?

#### **ANSWER: c. hermeneutics**

23. A significant characteristic of hermeneutics relates to its emphasis on...

#### ANSWER: a. the importance of listening and observation.

24. Hermeneutics, as a method of philosophical enquiry, relates to...

#### ANSWER: d. an understanding and interpretation of signs and symbols.

25. Which method of enquiry in philosophy is based on the notion that science has and will continue to benefit the human race?

#### **ANSWER: c. modernism**

26. Which philosophy emerged as a response to the bewildering world of technology and virtual reality?

## ANSWER: d. postmodernism

28. "Education is the liberation from the power of oppressive ideologies in society." Which philosophy does this statement relate to?

## ANSWER: d. critical theory

29. An important benefit from espousing critical theory relates to...

## ANSWER: b. the exposition and clarification of the politics of gender.

30. Indicate the correct option. African philosophy...

## ANSWER: b. is a response to the problems and troubles of Africa.

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

1. The philosophy that concentrates on finding the exact meaning of words is known as...

#### **Answer: 1. linguistic analysis**

2. ----- claims that almost all philosophical problems can be dispensed with once their underlying linguistic analysis is exposed.

#### **Answer: 4. linguistic analysis**

3. Why, according to linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem no matter how hard we try?

## Answer: 1. because we are dealing with a false problem.

4. Feminism encourages us to......

## Answer: 4. challenge limited roles.

5. Empiricism claimed that metaphysical statements are.....

## **Answer: 1. false**

6. The essential problem dealt with by Postmodernism relates to.....

## Answer: 2. the need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

7. Hermeneutics is primarily concerned with....

## Answer: 3. understanding.

8. Which one of the following statements is correct?

## **Answer: 4. Hermeneutics does not accept dogmatism.**

9. Phenomenology focuses on the....

## **Answer: 3. present**

10. Hermeneutics states that....

## **Answer: 2. We should not treat history and documents as things.**

11. According to phenomenology, in order to get to the truth we have to discard...

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## **Answer: 2. misconceptions**

12. For Hermeneutics education is.....

## Answer: about sense experience.

13. Which one of the following Phenomenologists used the phrase 'skewed hierarchy'?

## **Answer: Jacques Derrida**

14. By using Hermeneutic method we will produce learners who are....

#### **Answer: 1. creative thinkers**

15. Which of the following statements best captures what Systems Theory is about?

## Answer: 2. it sees the world as a problem-solving process.

16. Which method of enquiry is concerned with questioning and openmindedness?

## **Answer: 3. critical rationalism**

17. Who is the most famous representative of critical rationalism?

#### **Answer: Karl Popper**

18. According to critical rationalists, the term 'education' would refer mainly to helping learners to.....

#### Answer: 3. critically evaluate everything they read and hear.

19. Which method of enquiry in philosophy emphasizes relative knowledge – knowledge that is true under particular circumstances?

#### **Answer: Critical Rationalism**

20. The method of enquiry adopted by critical rationalists is ....

## Answer: 1. a questioning attitude and the encouragement of openmindedness.

21. In its search for truth, critical rationalism tends to focus on....

## Answer: 3. identifying error and falsity in human endeavours.

22. Existentialism is a theoretical framework that is characterized by its...

## Answer: 4. asking us how we wish to spend our lives.

23. An important benefit in espousing Existentialism is that it....

## Answer: 1. encourages us to become more open about ourselves.

24. Existentialism, as a theoretical framework, benefits us in that it.....

## Answer: 4. encourages us to question other people's ideas and values.

25. An important limitation of Existentialism as a theoretical framework is that

Answer: 2. it tends to make us too trusting.

26. Which one of the following questions does Existentialism ask?

**Answer: 3. what is the meaning of life?** 

27. Indicate the correct statement. What can Existentialism help us to do?

Answer: 3. be more open about ourselves.

28. Indicate the correct statement about what a Nihilist is. It is a person who

Answer: 1. believes that life has no meaning.

29. Which of the following is an important advantage in following or recognizing the beliefs of African philosophy?

Answer: 2. it provides a framework by which communities can be strengthened.

30. The method of enquiry adopted by African philosophy includes the use of

Answer: 1. Sage, ethnic and political methods of enquiry.

31. African philosophy, in its search for truth, focuses on concerns relating to

Answer: 3. the establishment of an African identity.

32. The essential problem dealt with by African philosophy relates to

Answer: 2. the placement of the African world in perspective.

33. A significant characteristic of African philosophy relates to concerns with

Answer: 3. who and what my community is as an African.

34. An African philosophical perspective enables researchers to

Answer: 1. challenge the West's claim to cultural superiority.

35. Which of the following characteristics is most representative of Critical Theory?

Answer: 2. it provides a realistic assessment of the influence of power structures.

36. Education, from a Critical Theory perspective, would emphasise

Answer: 1. a system in which existing political, social and economic structures are critically examined and evaluated.

37. Which of the following is an important characteristic of Critical Theory?

Answer: 3. it claims that all forms of power are repressive.

38. Which of the following is a characteristic of Critical Theory?

Answer: 3. our viewpoints are often the cause of our power or powerlessness.

39. Which of the following is a characteristic of Critical Theory?

Answer: 3. Social, economic and political systems have to be questioned.

40. Which method of enquiry in philosophy concerns itself with the interaction between human beings and the world in which they live?

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## Answer: 4. Phenomenology.

41. Which philosophy insists that a personal reality is only possible in relation to some other?

## **Answer: 4. Phenomenology.**

42. Which philosophy asserts that the biggest challenge facing human beings is our need to confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity?

## **Answer: Phenomenology.**

43. Which of the following questions would a Phenomenologist ask?

#### Answer: 1. Who am I?

44. Which method of enquiry would tend to regard education as being largely concerned with the assigning of meaning in all fields of human endeavour?

## **Answer: 3. hermeneutics.**

45. According to which philosophical position would the educator specifically focus on assisting learners to construct personal meaning?

## **Answer: 2. Hermeneutics.**

46. Hermeneutics, as a method of philosophical enquiry, relates to

#### Answer: 4. the understanding and interpretation of signs and symbols.

47. Hermeneutics, in its search for truth, focuses on

## **Answer: 3. questions of meaning and significance.**

48. Which method of enquiry in philosophy would regard education as being largely the induction of learners into the knowledge and methods of science?

## Answer: 3. modernism

49. The methods of enquiry used by postmodernists include

## **Answer: Phenomenology and Hermeneutics.**

50. In its search for truth Postmodernism focuses on

## Answer: 2. the influence of power structures on human existence.

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

1. Why, according to linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem no matter how hard we try?

## Answer: 1. because we are dealing with a false problem.

2. Which of the following statements best captures what phenomenology is about?

## Answer: 4. it seeks to penetrate to the essence.

3. According to phenomenology, in order to get to the truth we have to discard...

#### **Answer: deceptions**

5. The method of enquiry adopted by critical rationalists is...

## Answer: 1. a questioning attitude and the encouragement of openmindedness

6. In its search for the truth, critical rationalism tends to focus on...

## Answer: 3. Identifying error and falsity in human endeavours

7. Which one of the following questions does existentialism ask?

## Answer: 3. what is the meaning of life?

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8. Indicate the correct statement. What can existentialism help us to do?

## Answer: 3. be more open about ourselves.

9. A significant characteristic of African philosophy relates to concerns with...

## Answer: who and what my community is as an African.

10. An African philosophical perspective enables researchers to...

## Answer: 1. challenge the West's claim to cultural superiority

11. Education, from a critical theory perspective, would emphasise

# Answer: 1. a system in which existing social, political and economic structures are critically examined and evaluated.

12. Which of the following is a characteristic of critical theory?

Answer: our viewpoints are often the cause of our power or powerlessness.

13. Hermeneutics, as a philosophical method of enquiry, relates to...

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Answer: 4. the understanding and interpretation of signs and symbols.

14. Hermeneutics, in its search for truth, focuses on...

Answer: 3. questions of meaning and significance.

15. Which method of enquiry in philosophy would regard education as being largely the induction of learners into knowledge and methods of science?

**Answer: postmodernism** 

16. In its search for truth postmodernism focuses on ....

**Answer: 2. the influence of power structures on human existence.** 

17. The essential problem dealt with by postmodernism relates to....

Answer: 2. the need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

18. Two limitations characteristic of existentialism are that....

Answer: 2. a. it can cause us to become too trusting. d. it can leave us feeling helpless and angry.

19. Hermeneutics can help us to...

Answer: 3. a. discover our own hidden artistic abilities. c. be more tolerant of each other. d. create meaning.

20. Benefits that accrue to human beings, from African philosophy, are captured by two of the following statements. Identify them. African philosophy...

Answer: 3. c. provides a framework with which the role of tradition and culture can be critically addressed. d. provides an exposition of the politics of gender.

21. Philosophical methods of enquiry in philosophy benefit human beings in numerous ways. The 2 benefits that are characteristic of critical rationalism are....

Answer: 3. c. encourages us to question what those in authority tell us. d. encourages us to become more tolerant and understanding.

22. What else did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis also focus on?

## Answer: 3. logic

23. Two of the following problems have particular significance for existentialism as they are addressed by existentialist philosophy.

Answer: 3. c. exposition of error in the search for truth. d. discovery of meaning in our personal existence.

24. The opposite of existentialism is Nihilism. Nihilism is described by which of the two of the following two statements.

Answer: 3. a. it indicates a belief in nothing. d. it denies the existence of the soul.

25. Which of the following is an important advantage in following or recognizing the beliefs of African philosophy?

Answer: It provides a framework by which communities can be strengthened.

26. The method of enquiry adopted by African philosophy includes the use of...

Answer: 1. sage, ethnic and political methods of enquiry.

27. The method of enquiry of linguistic analysis is best described as...

Answer: 3. an analysis of the meaning of words and sentences.

28. Hermeneutics propagates three of the following ideas. Which are they?

Answer: 1.a. it emphasizes listening and observing.

b. it encourages dialogue. c. individual meaning is important.

29. Which of the following 2 concerns are of particular importance to African philosophers?

Answer: 4. none of the above.

30. Which of the following methods of enquiry are used by first-wave feminism?

Answer: 1.a. critical rationalism c. critical theory

31. A theoretical framework finds its legitimacy in addressing unique problems relating to the world and human existence. Which of the following problems are of particular interest to feminists?

Answer: 1.a. the clarification of inequities in human relations.

b. the clarification of roles and places in the material world.

32. Critical theorists hold certain beliefs regarding power and power structures. Which 2 ideas show the way critical theorists think about power and power structures?

Answer: 2.c. power structures are the driving force of society's economic life.

d. power structures influence the way people think.

33. Which of the following 2 characteristics describe critical theory as a method of enquiry?

Answer: 3.c. critical theory stresses the importance of personal strengths. d. critical theory accepts all people as equals.

34. Philosophical methods of enquiry have serious limitations. Which of the following 2 limitations are most relevant to phenomenology......

Answer: 2.a. it permits us to tolerate social evil and destructive behaviour.

d. it permits an uncritical attitude towards authority.

35. Philosophical methods of enquiry enable human beings to address a wide range of questions and problems. Which of the following features are common to

phenomenology and hermeneutics?

**Answer: 1.a. it helps us to create meaning and understanding.** 

- b. it helps us to re-assess the quality of our lives.
- c. it helps us to question the claims of rigid moralities.
- 36. Which 2 linguistic analysts focused on these 3 things: logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts?

Answer: Bertrand Russell and A J Ayer.

37. As a philosophy, hermeneutics has certain good qualities. Identify 3 from the list below.

Answer: 2.b. creates meaning. c. helps people understand each other. d. it resists scientific arrogance.

38. In the list below you will find 3 shortcomings of Postmodernism. Identify them.

Answer: 4.b. it underestimates the need for disciplined effort in any human endeavour. c. it can lead to despair. d. it has not yet given us any alternative to science as a way

forward.

39. Which 3 of the following ideas apply to modernism?

Answer: 1.a. science can improve our lives on earth.

- b. human beings are rational beings.
- c. Technology is the saviour of the world.
- 40. Which of the following issues does postmodernism focus on?

Answer: 3.c. the importance of our inner needs. d. the importance of self-image.

# EDC1015 **EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo STUDENT NOTES SECTION A - MCQ'S** 1. What is one of the major tasks of philosophy? A: 1. Analysing statements 2. The first philosopher who challenged us to think clearly was...... A: 2. Plato 3. The philosophy that concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words is known as.... A: 1. Linguistic analysis 4. Linguistic analysis was based on the thinking of.... A: 3. Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell 5. Which method of enquiry is concerned with questioning and openmindedness? A: 3. Critical Rationalism 6. Critical Rationalism had its origins in.... A: 1. Ancient Greece

7. According to critical rationalists the term 'education' would refer to mainly helping learners to....

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## A: 1. think clearly and solve problems accurately.

8. The method of enquiry adopted by critical rationalists is....

## A: 1. a questioning attitude and the encouragement of openmindedness.

9. What method of enquiry in philosophy is concerned with the question of the meaning or purpose of life?

## A: 2. Existentialism

10. What is the essential problem of Black Existentialism?

## A: 3. Why is there such a universal sense of superiority to the black races?

11. Who of the following are/were proponents of existentialism?

## A: 2. Jean Paul Sartre and Michel Foucault

12. The method of enquiry in philosophy that asserts that there is no meaning in life is called....

## A: 3. Nihilism

13. As a method of enquiry, ethnic philosophy is associated with....

## A: 3. African philosophy

14. Two proponents of African philosophy are....

## A: 3. Frantz Fanon and Peter Bodunrin

15. The earliest forms of African philosophy can be traced back to....

## A: 2. the ancient pharaohs

16. Learning is a process leading to the liberation of women in patriarchal dispensation. Which method of enquiry does this statement relate to?

## A: 1. Feminism

17. Individuals have certain innate human rights. Which philosophical position does this statement relate to?

## A: 2. feminism

18. The essential problem dealt with by feminism relates to....

## A: 4. how to place the women's world in perspective.

19. The whole spectrum of power relations and structures is studied by proponents of...

#### A: 4. critical theory

20. The method of enquiry in philosophy that wishes to change the system within which

we live is?

## A: 3. critical theory

21. Which of the following characteristics is most representative of critical theory?

## A: 2. it provides a realistic assessment of the influence of power structures.

22. Which method of enquiry in philosophy focuses on questions about ourselves and the world in which we live?

## A: 1. phenomenology

23. Which method of enquiry in philosophy concerns itself with the interaction between human beings and the world in which they live?

## A: 4. phenomenology

24. Which philosophy insists that a personal reality is only possible in relation to some other?

#### A: 4. phenomenology

25. Hermeneutics, as a method of philosophical enquiry, relates to.....

## A: 4. an understanding and interpretation of signs and symbols

26. Hermeneutics, in its search for truth, focuses on...

#### A: 3. questions of meaning and significance

27. The essential problem dealt with by hermeneutics is....

## A: the understanding and discovery of meaning

28. Which method of enquiry in philosophy is based on the notion that science has and will continue to benefit the human race?

## A: 3. modernism

29. Which philosophy would regard education as being largely an evaluation of the role of science and technology?

## A: 4. postmodernism

30. In its search for truth postmodernism focuses on....

## A: 2. the influence of power structures on human existence

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **SECTION A- MULTIPLE - CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. Who of the following were proponents of existentialism?

## **Answer: 1. John Locke and Bertrand Russell**

2. The philosophical method of enquiry that asserts that there is no meaning in life is called...

## **Answer: 3. Nihilism**

3. The philosophical method of enquiry that encourages humans to enjoy life and take personal responsibility for their future is called...

## Answer: 4. Existentialism

4. The essential concern addressed by existentialism can be regarded as the

## Answer: 1. discovery of meaning in our personal lives.

5. Existentialism originated in...

## **Answer: 3. Europe**

6. Two limitations characteristic of existentialism are that...

# Answer: 2. a. it can make us too trusting. b. it can leave us feeling helpless and angry.

7. Which philosophical method of enquiry identifies the 'Triple- layer of oppression'?

## **Answer: 2. African feminism**

8. The 'Triple-layer of oppression' refers to the combined oppression of...

## Answer: 3. colonial, patriarchal Western and patriarchal African cultures.

9. The phrase 'Politics of gender' refers to...

## Answer: 1. The power relations between males and females.

10. An important benefit from espousing feminism relates to...

Answer: 4. A critical examination of and reflection on our social and family lives.

11. Critical theory originated in...

## **Answer: Europe**

12. A significant characteristic of critical theory is its emphasis on...

## Answer: 1. radically questioning the existing social, political and economic order.

13. 'To see things as a whole rather than split it up into parts.' To which philosophy does this statement refer?

## Answer: 2. Systems theory.

14. 'The search for truth is concerned with the influence of power structures and relations on human existence.' To which philosophical method of enquiry does this statement refer?

## **Answer: 1. critical theory.**

15. Which philosophical method of enquiry focuses on questions about ourselves and the world in which we live?

## Answer: 1. phenomenology.

16. Which philosophical method of enquiry specifically addresses falsity in its various forms?

## **Answer: 2. Phenomenology.**

17. Two of the main proponents of phenomenology are...

## **Answer: 4. Martin Heidegger and Kwame Gyekye.**

18. Which philosophical method of enquiry is concerned with the interpretations of signs and symbols?

## **Answer: 3. Hermeneutics.**

19. Which philosophical method of enquiry focuses specifically on literature, art, music, poetry and craft?

## **Answer: Hermeneutics.**

20. 'A person's happiness is linked with his/her own creativity and cultural context.' To which philosophy does this statement refer?

#### **Answer: Hermeneutics.**

21. Which philosophical position claims to make us more tolerant of others?

## **Answer: Hermeneutics.**

22. Which three of the following ideas does hermeneutics propagate?

# Answer: 1. a. encourages listening and observing. b. encourages dialogue. c. individual meaning is important.

23. Which philosophy has dominated Western society during the last two centuries?

Answer: 2. Modernism.

24. What philosophical method of enquiry is based on the notion that science has benefited and will continue to benefit the human race?

## **Answer: 3. Modernism**

25. Which philosophy emerged as a response to the bewildering world of technology and virtual reality?

## Answer: 4. postmodernism

26. The methods of enquiry used by postmodernism include...

## A 4. Hermeneutics and phenomenology.

27. In its search for the truth postmodernism focuses on..

## Answer: 2. the influence of power structures on human existence.

28. The essential problem addressed by postmodernism relates to...

## Answer: 2. The need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

29. Postmodernism originated in...

## **Answer: Europe and the United States of America.**

30. The philosophy that concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words is known as...

## **Answer: 1. Linguistic analysis.**

31. Linguistic analysis was based on the thinking of...

## **Answer: 3. Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell.**

32. \_\_\_\_ claims that almost all philosophical problems can be dispensed off once their underlying linguistic basis is exposed.

## **Answer: 4. Linguistic analysis.**

33. Linguistic analysis is concerned with the following question...

## Answer: 1. what is the meaning of this word or sentence.

34. What did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis also focus on?

#### **Answer: 3. Logic**

35. Symbolic logic is used to express any statement that is...

## Answer: 1. True/false by definition.

36. What method of enquiry in philosophy asserts that our experience is the basis of all knowledge?

## Answer: 4. Empiricism.

37. What is the origin of empiricism?

## Answer: 2. British and American philosophy.

38. Which philosophy is concerned with establishing the truth by means of scientific testing?

## Answer: 1. empiricism

39. Linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism form the philosophy known as...

## **Answer: 4. Logical empiricism**

40. What is logical empiricism also known as?

## Answer: 1. Logical positivism.

41. What is the aim of logic in philosophy?

## Answer: 2. to arrive at the basic structure of truth.

42. According to empiricism, how do we use our senses and experience in everyday life?

## Answer: 1. to check and establish facts.

43. What theory is based on the empirical belief that what is true is confirmed or disproved off by a sense of experience?

#### Answer: 2. Modern science.

44. Empiricists ask the following question...

## Answer: 3. how do I know that something is true?

45. People who promote empiricism tend to be critical of...

## Answer: religion and ideologies like Marxism.

46. For empiricism, two of the most important sources of truth are...

#### Answer: 4. senses and the direct experience.

47. Which of the following is an advantage in using logical empiricism?

## Answer: 1. it helps us think more logically.

48. Logical empiricism, as a method of enquiry, is concerned with...

## Answer: 1. the meaning of lived reality.

49. According to logical empiricism, the term 'education' would refer mainly to help learners...

## **Answer: 1. think clearly and solve problems**

50. Logical empiricism originated in...

#### **Answer: 1. Britain and the United States of America.**

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **SECTION A**

1. Which 2 linguistic analysts focused on these 3 things: logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts?

## **Answer: 4. Bertrand Russell and AJ Ayer.**

2. The method of enquiry of linguistic analysis is best described as

## Answer: 3. An analysis of the meaning of words and sentences.

3. What is one of the major tasks of linguistic analysis?

## **Answer: 1. analysing statements.**

4. Linguistic analysis was based on the thinking of...

## Answer: 3. Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell.

5. Why, according to linguistic analysis, do we fail to solve a problem no matter how hard we try?

## Answer: 1. because we are dealing with a false problem.

6. What, according to Empiricism, gives us the most reliable form of truth?

## Answer: 3. Knowledge derived through experience.

7. Which philosophical method of enquiry in philosophy emphasizes knowledge about the natural world?

## Answer: 4. Existentialism.

8. Open societies, according to Karl Popper, have some of the following characteristics.

Which of these characteristics are correct?

# Answer: 2.b. They encourage open discussion. c. they solve problems by exchanging ideas.

9. The opposite of Existentialism is Nihilism. Nihilism is best described by which of the following 2 statements?

## Answer: 3.a. it indicates a belief in nothing. d. it denies the existence of the soul.

10. Opponents of Existentialism would identify 2 of the following as shortcomings of Existentialism. Identify them.

## Answer: 1.a. it makes people too trusting. c. it could be confusing.

11. As a philosophy, Existentialism focuses on

#### Answer: 3. constructed knowledge.

12. Indicate the correct option. African philosophy...

## Answer: 2. is a response to the problems and troubles of Africa.

13. The central idea in traditional African thought is...

## Answer: 1. 'Ubuntu'.

14. African philosophy can help us...

#### Answer: 3. to build communities.

15. African philosophy

Answer: 2. emphasizes spoken tradition.

16. 'Ubuntu' is?

Answer: 3. related to human happiness.

17. Which of the following is an advantage of African philosophy?

Answer: 3. it appreciates the mystery of life.

18. The methods of enquiry used by Feminism include

**Answer: 3. Phenomenology and Critical theory.** 

19. In its search for truth, Feminism focuses on

Answer: 2. the establishment of women's roles and identities in society.

20. A significant characteristic of Feminism is

Answer: 1. the claim that women are people in their own right.

21. Proponents of Feminism can be characterized by their assertion that

Answer: 2. women have been and are denied human rights.

22. Theoretical frameworks have a particular focus on nature of knowledge that can be

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appropriately addressed by the framework. Feminism focuses on

Answer: 4. a. objective knowledge. D. social knowledge.

23. Critical theorists believe in

## Answer: 3. social equality.

24. 'Power structures influence the way we think'. Which philosophical method of enquiry in philosophy does this statement relate to?

## **Answer: Critical theory.**

25. 'To see things as a whole rather than split into parts'. Which philosophy does this statement refer to?

## Answer: 2. Systems theory.

26. The search for truth is concerned with the influence of power structures and relations on human existence'. Which philosophical method of enquiry in philosophy does this statement refer to?

## **Answer: 1. Critical theory.**

27. Education is the liberation from the power of oppressive ideologies in society'. Which philosophy does this statement refer to?

## **Answer: 4. Critical theory.**

28. An important disadvantage of espousing Phenomenology is its

Answer: 2. difficulty in solving scientific problems.

29. An important disadvantage of espousing Phenomenology is its

**Answer: 2. inability to encourage critical thinking.** 

30. If we ignore Phenomenology we may probably never

Answer: 1. confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity.

31.If we ignore Phenomenology we will probably

Answer: 2. lack the capacity to feel.

32. Which of the following are important features of Hermeneutics?

\*\*\*Answer: 3. a. listening and observing are important aspects in deriving or assigning meaning. b. our life experience largely determines the way in which we perceive the world. d. understanding of any issue is facilitated by dialogue.

33. An important limitation in espousing Hermeneutics relates to

Answer: 1. difficulties in defining problems precisely.

34. From the following statements, identify 3 that are propagated by Hermeneutics.

Answer: 2. b. Hermeneutics emphasizes the importance of listening and

observing. c. Hermeneutics is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create his/her own meaning and understanding. d. Hermeneutics claims that an individual's life experience influences the way he/she understands the world.

35. Hermeneutics can help us to

Answer: 3. a. discover our own hidden artistic abilities.

c. be more tolerant of each other.

d. create meaning.

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36. Which philosophy would regard education as being largely the evaluation of the role of science and technology?

## Answer: 4. postmodernism.

37. Which philosophical method regards education as being largely the induction of learners into knowledge and the methods of science?

## Answer: Postmodernism.

38. The methods of enquiry used by Postmodernists include

#### **Answer: 4. Hermeneutics and Phenomenology.**

39. In its search for truth, Postmodernism focuses on

#### Answer: 2. the influence of power structures on human existence.

40. The essential problem addressed by postmodernism relates to

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Answer: 2. the need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

## **SHORT QUESTIONS**

#### **TUTORIAL LETTER**

## ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON CRITICAL RATIONALISM

- 1. Discuss the idea of open-mindedness in critical rationalism. (6)
  - Socrates already encouraged people to challenge existing ideas and question them.
  - People need to speak their mind and discuss matters openly.
  - People need to also question their own ideas.
  - Ideas must be exchanges and new ideas need to be tried out.
  - Open societies are democratic.
  - Open-mindedness means critical rationalism is anti-dogmatic and antiauthoritarian.
  - Scientists need to be objective.
- 2. Identify three types of false argument and briefly explain and give an example of each.(9)
  - → Name calling (attacking the person and not his/her opinion),
  - → false cause-and-effect (falsely claiming that an action has or will have a certain effect),
  - → falsely representing an opinion in order to discredit it (straw man argument),

→ appeal to emotion (emotional manipulation e.g. through fear);

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→ falsely claiming that because a point of view is popular it must be true (claim the truth through numbers)

(see pp34-35: 3rd edition or pp32-33: 4th edition for explanations and examples).

#### 3. Describe the similarity between critical rationalism and empiricism. (2)

- They are partners.
- Both emphasise the need to search for truth.
- Both require honesty.
- Empiricism focuses on objective truth and critical rationalism on avoiding falsity.

## 4. Discuss five ways in which critical rationalism can help us. (5)

Critical rationalism can help us to:

- question what people in authority tell us;
- be more open to what other people think;
- examine our own opinions carefully;
- be more tolerant and understanding;
- solve problems.

## 5. Discuss three ways in which critical rationalism cannot help us. (3)

Critical rationalism cannot help us to:

make quick decisions;

■ find the meaning in life;

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- deal with people who are dishonest;
- solve the problem of suffering.
- It can elicit feelings of insecurity.

## CHAPTER 1: THINKING CLEARLY AND LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: THE BEGINNING OF OUR NEW WORLD

- (1) Which method of enquiry in philosophy is concerned with finding the exact meaning of words? 1) Linguistic analysis
- (2) Who were the most popular exponents of linguistic analysis? 2) A.J Ayer & Bertrand Russell
- (3) Which philosophy claims that if we fail to solve a problem, no matter how hard we try, we are dealing with a meaningless set of words? **3) Linguistic analysis**
- (4) On whose thinking was linguistic analysis based? 4) Ludwig Wittgenstein & Bertrand Russell
- (5) What did Russell and Ayer focus on in their work? 5) They focused on 3 things: logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts
- (6) Who moved away from supporting linguistic analysis because of his experiences in World War I? 6) Ludwig Wittgenstein
- (7) What can linguistic analysis help us to do?
  Think more clearly;

be precise in what we mean;

spot hidden assumptions in arguments;

be aware of manipulation and dishonesty in all forms of propaganda, including the mass media

(8) What can linguistic analysis not help us with?

Moral problems;

life choices;

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facing our own mortality;

seeing the people we love suffer;

our own suffering

- 9) On what else did the philosophical movement that focused on linguistic analysis focus? 9) Logic
- (10) What is the aim of logic in philosophy? 10) To get what we might call "bare bones" of truth
- (11) Which method of enquiry in philosophy maintains that **experience** gives us our most reliable form of knowledge? 11) Empiricism
- (12) On which method of enquiry in philosophy is modern science based? 12) **Empiricism**
- (13) What can empiricism help us to do?

Understand how our physical world works;

test the truth of certain claims;

refute what is false:

respect the natural laws of the universe;

learn from experience

(14) What are the failings of empiricism?

It places too much emphasis on science;

it ignores human values;

it views human beings as machines;

it tends to ignore anything that cannot be explained scientifically;

it confines truth to that which can be experienced through the senses

(15) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored empiricism as a method of enquiry?

We will fail to learn from our experiences. As a result, we will be vulnerable to anything that is false. We could even be seriously injured if we do not observe the laws of science, e.g. the law of gravity.

- (16) Which philosophy did linguistic analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together form? **16) Logical Empiricism**
- (17) What is logical empiricism also known as? 17) Logical Positivism

# CHAPTER 2: ASKING QUESTIONS: CHALLENGING WHAT THE WORLD TELLS US

Asking questions: challenging what the world tells us

- (1) What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with "questioning and open-mindedness"? 1. Critical rationalism
- (2) Who is the most famous representative of critical rationalism? 2. Karl Popper
- (3) Name four theorists who promoted critical rationalism. 3. Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein, Karl Popper, Godwin Sogolo, Helen Suzman, Hannah Arendt and Nelson Mandela

- (4) Describe five characteristics that identify critical rationalists. **4. Critical rationalists** are objective; question what they are told; are open-minded; avoid falsity; and are anti-dogmatic and anti-authoritarian.
- (5) What does critical rationalism help us to do? 5. Critical rationalism can help us to: question what people in authority tell us; be more open to what other people think; examine our own opinions carefully; be more tolerant and understanding; and solve problems.
- (6) What can critical rationalism not help us with? 6. Critical rationalism cannot help us to: make quick decisions; find the meaning in life; deal with people who are dishonest; or solve the problem of suffering. It can elicit feelings of insecurity.
- (7) What does critical rationalism focus on in trying to establish the truth? **7. Critical** rationalism focuses on avoiding falsity in trying to establish the truth.
- (8) From which ancient philosophy did critical rationalism originate? 8. Greek philosophy
- (9) What would the consequences for us be if we ignored critical rationalism as a method of enquiry in philosophy? **9. If we ignored critical rationalism we would be gullible; manipulated by others; and do real harm to ourselves and others because we fail to guestion what those in authority tell us.**
- (10) Name the types of false argument, explain them, and give an example of each.
- 10. Name calling, false cause-and-effect, falsely representing an opinion in order to discredit it, appeal to emotion and falsely claiming that because a point of view is popular it must be true (see pp34-35: 3rd edition or pp32-33: 4th edition for explanations and examples).

#### **CHAPTER 3: HOW IN THE WORLD CAN WE GIVE OUR LIVES MEANING?**

- (1) What is the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with the question, "What is the meaning of life"? 1. Existentialism
- (2) Name four thinkers who promote(d) existentialism. 2. Friedrich Nietzsche, Jacques Derrida, Kgalushi Koka, Jean-Paul Sartre, Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, Jean Baudrillard, Luce Irigaray, WEB du Bois, Simone de Beauvoir
- (3) Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that there is no purpose in life? 3. **Nihilism**
- (4) What problem does black existentialism focus on? 4. Universal sense of superiority to or hatred of black people
- (5) Describe three main ideas in the teachings of existentialists. 5. Discover for ourselves the meaning of life; there is no one meaning to life; ask ourselves: "Is this how I want to live my life?"
- (6) What does existentialism help us to do? 6. Existentialism can help us to: question other people's ideas and values; be more open about ourselves; trust our instincts; spot fakes; and enjoy life more.
- (7) What does existentialism not help us to do? 7. Existentialism fails because it may make us too trusting; it can be confusing; it may lead to despair; it may leave us feeling helpless and angry; and it may be disruptive.
- (8) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored existentialism as a method of enquiry in philosophy? 8. We may find ourselves living "the unexamined life".
- (9) Explain the concept of "nihilism". 9. Nihilism believes that life has no purpose to

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it and there is no such thing as the soul. Human beings are tiny bits of nothing in a wide universe and life is a waste of time. While nihilism often leads to chaos, it can also lead to freedom especially for people who have been oppressed.

#### CHAPTER 4: WHAT OF AN AFRICAN WORLD?

- (1) What does African philosophy have its roots in? 1. In spoken tradition.
- (2) When did written philosophy in Africa emerge? 2. As part of the anti-colonial struggle and the challenges of post-colonial reconstruction.
- (3) What distinguishes Western thought from African thought? 3. Western thought puts the individual at the centre of life, while African thought puts the community at the centre.
- (4) Where can we trace the earliest forms of written African philosophy to? **4. To the time of the pharaohs.**
- (5) Who was one of the earliest and best-known North African philosophers? **5. St** Augustine.
- (6) Give two examples of traditional African social and political communalism. 6. Any two of the following: Julius Nyerere's Ujamaa; Kenneth Kaunda's humanism; Se'kou Toure's scientific socialism; Leopold Senghor's Negritude and Steve Biko's Black consciousness.
- (7) What methods of enquiry are used in African philosophy? **7. African philosophy** employs the following methods of enquiry: ethnic, sage (wisdom), political and pure philosophies.
- (8) Name the central ethical idea in traditional African philosophy and describe what it means. 8. The central ethical idea in African philosophy is "Ubuntu". It means

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that the human being exists and develops because of the relationship it has with other human beings.

- (9) Name four proponents of African philosophy. 9. Any four of the following: Kwame Anthony Appiah, Peter Bodunrin, Amilcar Cabral, Frantz Fanon, Segun Gbadegesin, Kwame Gyekye, Paulin Hountondji, Mahmood Mamdani, John Mbiti, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Henry Odera Oruka, Sedar Leopold Senghor, Tsenay Serequeberhan, Kwasi Wiredu.
- (10) What can African philosophy do?
- 10. African philosophy can help to...
- 1. built communities
- 2. encourage human beings to be more humble
- 3. give us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- 4. help us appreciate mystery
- 5. re-examine the need for tradition in human life
- (11) Where does African philosophy fail? 11. African philosophy fails because ...
- 1. it does not challenge power structures
- 2. it does not seem to be able to accept women as men's equals
- 3. it does not encourage critical thinking
- 4. it tends to ignore the needs of the individual
- 5. it tolerates cruel superstitious practices (eg burning of witches)
- (12) What does African philosophy challenge? 12. The arrogance of the West and asks the West to rethink its claim of cultural superiority.
- (13) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored African philosophy as a method of enquiry in philosophy? 13. If we ignore Africa, we will be doing some

form of inner violence to ourselves, because the human race became human in Africa. Again, Africa is a huge continent that contains enormous natural wealth and a growing human population. Africa is part of the world socio-economic order and her philosophy has an impact on the order.

## CHAPTER 5: CAN WE CHANGE OUR WORLD?

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- (1) What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that wants to change or "beat" the system? 1. Critical theory.
- (2) What is the most famous version of critical theory? 2. Marxism.
- (3) Name four theorists who promote(d) critical theory. 3. Any four of the following: Jesus of Nazareth, Karl Marx, Gautama Buddha, Moses, Mohammed, Michael Foucault, Paulo Freire, Fidel Castro, Leon Trotsky, Jurgen Habermas, Frantz Fanon, Amilcar and most feminists.
- (4) Which philosophy claims that power structures not only drive our economic and social lives, but actually affect the way we think? 4. Critical theory.
- (5) Describe four identifying characteristics that mark the work of critical theorists. 5 Critical theorists are concerned with changing or beating the system; they believe that any form of power structure is dangerous and destructive; they believe that power structures influence the way we think; they believe that we will never experience happiness while we continue to be dominated by powerful people and powerful economic systems.
- (6) What does critical theory help us to do?
- 6. Critical theory helps us to ...
- 1. realistically assess power

- 2. identify those who have power and those who don't
- 3. identify weaknesses in existing power relations
- 4. define our own personal power and weaknesses
- 5. re-examine our priorities
- 6. re-assess our lives

- (7) Where does critical theory fail?
- 7. Critical philosophy fails because ...
- 1. it can be fanatical
- 2. it is sometimes too simplistic in its analysis of power
- 3. it can be too idealistic
- 4. it may lead to despair and violence
- 5. it tends to ignore human emotions and desires
- 6. it can be a very grim philosophy
- (8) What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with the nature of systems? **8. Systems theory.**
- (9) How does systems theory see things? **9. Systems theory sees things as a whole.**
- (10) According to systems theory, how should we approach a problem? **10. By asking** ourselves the following questions:
- Where does the system fit into the total environment?
- How do the components of the system fit together?
- What helps the system to work and what prevents it from working more

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#### efficiently?

- What is the goal of the system?
- (11) Who is one of the most famous systems theorists? 11. Ludwig von Bertalanffy
- (12) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored critical theory as a method of enquiry in philosophy? 12. We will live our lives to the whims of and manipulations of those in power and the powerful structures.

#### CHAPTER 6: Rethinking a woman's world

- (1) List four forms of feminism. 1. African feminism, British and American feminism, European feminism and Islamic feminism.
- (2) On which three issues do all forms of feminism focus? 2. Sexual stereotyping, creating a bigger place for women in the world and rejecting the view that women are inferior to men.
- (3) What is African feminism also called? 3. The sisterhood of Africa.
- (4) How do black women's studies in Africa interpret feminism? 4. Black Women's Studies in Africa interpret feminism as a Western cultural phenomenon under whose influence local women's movements have challenged gender dimensions of customary laws in arguing for social change.
- (5) What is the main criticism African feminism levels at Western and European feminists? 5. Trying to speak for African women, denying them the ability to voice their thoughts.

- (6) What is meant by the "politics of gender"? 6. Power relations between men and women, which are structured around opposing notions of masculinity and femininity.
- (7) How do African feminists generally view their role in relation to men? 7. They see their role as based on male-female complementarity in overcoming discrimination by means of more equitable gender relations and changes in the sexual division of labour in society.
- (8) On which theory do proponents of the women's movement in Africa rely and what does this theory explore? 8. They rely on post-colonial theory, which explores issues such as the construction of the 'other', and the unique perspectives and experiences of colonized races and cultures.
- (9) What is the "triple layer of oppression" identified by African feminism? 9. The oppression of African women by colonial, Western patriarchal and African patriarchal cultures.
- (10) What does "patriarchal fundamentalism" claim? 10. It claims that the universe was created and is ruled by a male god, who created men in his image to worship him. Everything else including women is non-divine and belongs to the class of animals.
- (11) Name four proponents of black women's studies in Africa. 11. Any four of the following: N'Dri Assie-Lumumba, Molara Ogundipe-Leslie, Florence Abena Dolphyne, Ifi Amadiume, Amina Mama, Nnaemeka Obioma, Lindiwe Zulu, Ama Ata Aidoo, Maria Nzomo, Philomina Okeke, Mamphela Ramphela, Rodo Barbre **Gaidzinwa**, Catherine Odora Hoppers.

- (12) What does "first-wave feminism" argue for? **12. Women should get a right to vote.**
- (13) With which methods of enquiry in philosophy does "first-wave feminism" have links and why? 13. Critical rationalism, which asks questions; critical theory, which challenges all forms of power; empiricism, which asks us to look at reality, including social reality, objectively.
- (14) What does feminism in general claim? 14. Feminism claims that the entire experience of "being human" has been seriously damaged and distorted by masculine domination and the marginalisation of women. Feminism also claims that women have been, and are still denied basic human rights and that men have shown themselves to be unworthy leaders of the human race by repeatedly indulging in acts of war, violence and abusive power relations.
- (15) With which methods of enquiry in philosophy does feminism in general have links and why? 15. Critical rationalism because it questions the status quo; critical theory because it radically challenges the status quo; African philosophy for its attempts to decolonize the effects of domination by white males; linguistic analysis because it defines the problems women face; empiricism because it looks scientifically at actual biological differences between men and women.
- (16) Which two claims does feminism make in general? 16. Feminism claims that the experience of 'being human' has been damaged and distorted by masculine domination and marginalization of women; it also claims that women have been, and are, denied basic human rights and that men have shown themselves to be unworthy leaders by indulging in war, violence and abusive relationships.
- (17) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored feminism as a method of enquiry in philosophy? 17. If we ignored feminism, we would live in a state of barbarity rather than civilisation because women rather than men, bring stability,

harmony and higher forms of culture to human society. Societies which ignore the rights of women have intractable social problems.

#### CHAPTER 7: WHO IN THE WORLD AM I?

- (1) Which method of enquiry in philosophy asks us to reflect on ourselves and the world in which we live? 1. Phenomenology
- (2) Name four thinkers who promote(d) phenomenology. 2. Any four of the following people:
- The Dalai Lama
- Credo Mutwa

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- Martin Heidegger
- Jacques Derrida
- Harrison Ford
- Robert Redford
- Kwame Gyekye
- Chuwudum Okolo
- Oshita Oshita
- Martin Luther King
- Albert Einstein
- (3) Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that human beings and the world continuously interact with each other? 3. Phenomenology
- (4) Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that we have to "connect with the real world"? 4. Phenomenology
- (5) Which method of enquiry in philosophy claims that if I am to be real, I need to have deep emotional connections with at least one other human being? 5. Phenomenology

- (6) Name the three categories into which phenomenology can be classified. 6. The three categories of Phenomenology are:
- Self (Who am I?)
- Social (Who and what is the community?)
- Cosmic (What is our place in the universe)
- (7) What does phenomenology claim as most dangerous? 7. Falsity

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- (8) What does "falsity" include? Give examples. 8. Falsity includes:
- Individual pretence (eg someone who is always out to impress everyone)
- Social falsity (eg a party where everyone tries to work out who the most important people are)
- (9) What does phenomenology help us to do?
- 9. Phenomenology can help us to ...
- examine our lives closely.
- reject false value systems (eg materialism).
- slow down and lead less stressful lives.
- resist other people's demands and expectations.
- find happiness.
- (10) Where does phenomenology fail?
- 10. Phenomenology fails because it ...
- can accept social evil.
- leads to mental confusion.
- can be morally demanding.
- has been criticised for not being a problem-solving philosophy.
- tends to be too uncritical of authority.
- (11) What does phenomenology consider our biggest challenge? 11. According to

Phenomenology, our biggest challenge is to confront ourselves in terms of all our uncertainties (ambiguities) and complexity in order to get closer to our "real" selves.

(12) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored phenomenology as a method of enquiry in philosophy? 12. We will lack the capacity to "feel". We may never be able to experience the moments of joy or pain

#### CHAPTER 8: IS THERE A WORLD THAT SPEAKS TO US?

(1) What do we call the method of enquiry in philosophy that is concerned with signs and symbols and the way in which we interpret and understand them? 1.

#### **Hermeneutics**

- (2) Name four theorists who promote (d) hermeneutics.
- 2. Any four of the following people:
- Carl Jung
- Hans-Georg Gadamer
- Martin Heidegger
- John Dilthey
- Tsenay Serequeberhan
- John Mbiti
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o
- Cain Hope Felder
- (3) Why is hermeneutics largely ignored today? 3. The huge impact that science, technology and consumerism have on today's life.
- (4) On which areas of human endeavour does hermeneutics focuS?
- 4. The areas of human endeavour that Hermeneutics focus on, include:

- Art
- Literature
- **Film**
- Crafts
- Music
- Poetry
- (5) List four main ideas propagated by hermeneutics.
- 5. The four main ideas of Hermeneutics include the following:

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- It emphasises the importance of listening and observing
- It claims that the individual's life experience influences the way in which he/she understands the world
- It affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue
- **■** It is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create his/her own meaning and understanding
- (6) What can hermeneutics help us to do? 6. Hermeneutics can help us to ...
- create meaning.
- discover our own hidden artistic abilities.
- resist scientific arrogance and domination.
- understand one another.
- be more tolerant of one another.
- (7) What can hermeneutics not help us to do? 7. Hermeneutics can't help us to ...
- define problems.
- overcome injustice.
- be decisive.
- take action.

#### be more logical.

- (8) To what, according to hermeneutics, is our happiness linked? 8. Our happiness is linked to our creativity in whatever form or cultural context it is produced.
- (9) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored hermeneutics as a method of enquiry in philosophy? 9. We will be deeply unhappy people because we will be ignoring our needs as human beings.

#### CHAPTER 10: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING TO?

(Postmodernism was Chapter 9 in the 2nd edition. In the 3rd edition it is Chapter 10. You need not study Chapter 9 in the 3rd edition for the examination)

- (1) Which method of enquiry in philosophy has dominated Western society during the last two centuries? 1. Modernism
- (2) How would you define "modernism"? 2. Modernism is a philosophy that holds that science and technology can fix everything.
- (3) What, according to modernism, will govern the ideal world? 3. Science and technology
- (4) What does postmodernism tell us? 4. Postmodernism tells us that there must be something else besides science and technology that can fix things.
- (5) Identify four aspects of the human condition that postmodernism examines.

- 5. Any four of the following conditions apply:
- The way we see ourselves
- The failure of science to solve many problems
- The fact that reason may not always be a good guide to solving certain problems
- The power of large, modern institutions (eg schools, hospitals, large businesses) over the individual
- The need to experience all our emotions, including our anger and sexuality, to the full
- Our inner needs
- Mental anguish and mental illness
- Where we get our standards of right and wrong
- Whether we can trust these standards
- Criminality and delinquency (why some crimes are punishable and others not)
- Who defines what it means to be a "normal" human being?
- Whether technology is morally neutral
- (6) Name four thinkers who are associated with postmodernism.
- 6. Any four of the following people:
- Jacques Derrida
- Michael Foucault
- Jean Baudrillard
- Jacques Lacan
- Friederich Nietzsche
- (7) Which philosophies are related to postmodernism and why?

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- 7. Phenomenology (they ask: Who are we?)
- Hermeneutics (they believe: Symbols and images speak to us.)
- Empiricism (they ask: What is actually going on?)
- Feminism (they ask: Who says that the male is the "norm"?)

## (8) What does postmodernism help us to do?

- 8. Postmodernism helps us to ...
- reassess the quality of our lives.
- resist pressures to turn into workaholics.
- gain more creative energy.
- question the claims of rigid morality.
- lead freer lives.

#### (9) Where does postmodernism fail?

- 9. Postmodernism fails because it ...
- may encourage destructive behaviour (eg drug dependency).
- has not yet given us any alternatives to science as a way forward.
- **underestimates** the need for disciplined effort in any human endeavour.
- **can lead to despair.**
- is elitist. Its language should be simplified to make it more accessible to nonintellectuals.
- (10) To what is postmodernism a response? 10. Postmodernism is a response to the bewildering world of technology and virtual reality that has mushroomed over the past 20 years.
- (11) What would be the consequences for us if we ignored postmodernism as a method of enquiry in philosophy?
- 11. People who ignore postmodernism tend to be rather closed people with rigid

value systems.

## **ESSAY AND SHORT QUESTIONS**

# **CRITICAL THEORY**

SYSTEMS THEORY AND CRITICAL THEORY BOTH HAVE TO DO WITH

"SYSTEMS". WRITE AN ESSAY ON THIS STATEMENT AND STRUCTURE YOUR

ESSAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. Introduction in which you define Systems theory and Critical theory

Systems theory is concerned with the nature of systems. Systems theory looks at things as a whole rather than splitting things into parts and also encourages us to keep the objective of the system in mind.

Critical theory radically questions existing social, political and economic systems and believes that all forms of power are oppressive. (5)

#### 2. Body (40)

#### Discuss how Systems theory perceives the nature of systems (10)

Systems theory focuses on:

- where the system fits and interact with the total environment
- how the components fit together
- what helps the system to work
- what prevents the system from not working
- what the goal of the system is
- complexity and interdependence

Identify one of the most famous Systems theorists and discuss his theory of living organisms (4)

Ludwig Bertalanffy

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- Living organisms had to be studied as a whole and not split up into parts.
- Everything must be studied as a system to gain true understanding.
- It is a mistake to study only the parts of a system and not the whole system.

## Identify a form of Systems theory that helps us to understand ourselves and. describe what this form of Systems theory sets out to do (6)

- Ken Wilber and his concept of a holon.
- He claims that that all forms of reality have an inner and an outer, an individual aspect and a social aspect.
- Everything can be seen as a holon –
- Human beings are good examples of a holon.
- Inner, personal world of thoughts. Feelings and dreams
- Inner collective: your culture, your mutual understanding with the people around you
- Outer personal: your appearance, what you do

## Discuss how Critical theory perceives the nature of systems (10)

#### Critical Theory:

- is concerned with the changing of a system
- is a form of social criticism
- questions social, political and economic systems
- argues that all forms of power are oppressive
- assess power realistically
- identifies those in power
- identifies existing power relations
- defines our own personal power and weaknesses

- re-examine our priorities
- reassess our lives

Identify a French Critical theorist who was concerned with the power of institutions such as schools, churches and the corporate world of business and, discuss why he was concerned with the power of institutions such as schools, churches and the corporate world of business (6)

- Michel Foucault
- Foucault was concerned that if people follow rules and regulations, institutions will force people to conform.

Identify an African Zulu shaman who enacted the tradition of Critical theorists and, what he pledged to expose. (4)

- Credo Mutwa
- Mutwa pledged to expose what is really happening in the world and who is responsible for what is happening in the world.
- 3. Conclusion in which you indicate your preference for either Systems theory or Critical theory and indicate the reason for your preference. (5)

An overall mark is allocated to the motivation provided by you.

#### Question 5

Describe three identifying characteristics of critical theory

(6)

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF CRITICAL THEORY:**

Critical theory – a method of enquiry, which radically questions existing social, political

and economic systems

Critical theory claims that power structures do not just drive our economic and social life – it claims that power structures actually influence the way we think

#### **QUESTION 5**

Describe any two identifying characteristics of critical theory

(4

# 4.1 DISCUSS 4 CHARACTERISTICS THAT MARK THE WORK OF CRITICAL THEORISTS. (8)

ANSWER: Concerned with changing/beating the system. Believe that any form of power structure is dangerous and destructive. Believe that power structures influence the way we think. Believe that we will never experience happiness while we continue to be dominated by powerful people and powerful economic systems.

A learner in your class (ECD, Intermediate and Senior Phase, FET and Senior Phase) or community (only General Education) is being bullied by olde children. He gets pocket money from his parents but the older children force hir to give them the money or the food that he buys at the tuck shop. He does his home work regularly and well, but the children in his peer group who are physically bigger than him force him to either do their home work for them of copy his home work. How can you solve this problem by using your knowledge of African philosophy or critical theory (choose one framework)?

#### 1. Introduction

Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of African philosophy or critical theory to solve it

#### 2 Content

Discuss African philosophy or critical theory briefly and show how you will use it to solve the problem

#### 3. Conclusion

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of African philosophy or critical theory in solving the problem

## **CRITICAL THEORY:**

- 1. Describe problem and motivate use of framework to solve it.
- 2. Discussion:

Critical theory – a method of enquiry, which radically questions existing social, political and economic systems.

\_ Critical theory claims that power structures do not just drive our economic and social life – it claims that power structures actually influence the way we think.

- Critical theorists:
- 1. Believe that all forms of power is dangerous and destructive.
- 2. Claim that power structures not only drive our economic and social life, but also influence the way we think
- 3. Want to abolish all economic and social inequalities
- 4. Believe that we will never be happy as long we are dominated by powerful people and powerful economic systems

Advantages:

Critical theory help us:

- 1. Realistically assess power
- 2. Identify those who have power and those who don't
- 3. Identify weakness in existing power relations
- 4. Define our own, personal powers and weaknesses
- 5. Re-examine our priorities
- 6. Reassess our lives

#### Disadvantages:

- \_ Critical theory fails:
- 1. It can become fanatical (dangerous opinions)
- 2. It is sometimes too simplistic in its analysis of power
- 3. It can be too idealistic
- 4. It may lead to despair and violence
- 5. It tends to ignore human emotion and desire
- 6. It can be a very grim philosophy

1 Briefly discuss how critical theory can help us.

(:

## **HOW CAN CRITICAL THEORY HELP SOCIETY? (3)**

- Help us to re-examine our own priorities.
- Help us to identify those that have power and the ones that do not.
- Help us to identify weaknesses in existing power relations.
- 1 2 Give four (4) reasons why critical theory may fail to help us

(4

#### **REASONS WHY CRITICAL THEORY FAILS:**

- 1. It can become fanatical (dangerous opinions)
- 2. It is sometimes too simplistic in its analysis of power
- 3. It can be too idealistic
- 4. It may lead to despair and violence
- 5. It tends to ignore human emotion and desire
- 6. It can be a very grim philosophy

Write a short paragraph on critical theory as a philosophy. In your answer refer to the following aspects:

- · supporters of critical theory
- · three ideas propagated by critical theory
- two aspects critical theory cannot help us with

[15]

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

# WRITE A SHORT PARAGRAPH ON CRITICAL THEORY AS A PHILOSOPHY. REFER TO THE FOLLOWING: (15)

- Supporters of critical theory
- 3 ideas propagated by critical theory
- Two aspects critical theory cannot help us with

Critical theory origins from German philosophy in the 1930's. People have been hurt by either the social (Community), economic (Banks) or political system (Law, police station), people in power. Critical theory requires a change of thought, evolving the system. Therefore, this concerns changing the system!

- A few supporters of critical theory is Karl Marx, Michael Foucault and Paulo Freire.
- The 3 ideas propagated by critical theory is:
- The most famous version of critical theory is Marxism. True Marxisms believe in abolishing all inequalities of wealth and all social inequalities. Therefore, to not be dominated by powerful people, this leads to experiencing happiness.
- The idea of shaping power! It is believed that people forces us to live in a certain way. Therefore, we shape power by first acknowledging how we currently live when being controlled by other people. Michael Foucault feels that new methods of power are ensured by tecnique, by normalisation and by control.

- Critical theory therefore, believes that any form of power structure is dangerous and destructive. The ideas behind critical theory involves changing the way we think, to adapt to rules and regulations or make decisions as a community that can help us coexist peacefully with one another. Therefore, its a matter of communicating with one another, to be aware and question the system as a whole. Therefore, to be aware of the problem.
- Two aspects that critical theory CANNOT help us with :
- It can't help us in preventing the chance of an idea getting fanatical, over the top.
- It can't help us in preventing the chance of it ignoring human emotions and desires.

#### Question 1

"Critical rationalists believe we should question what we're told and that we should carefully examin our own ideas. Write an essay of not more than two pages commenting critically on this statemer Use the following keywords in your essay open mindedness, falsity, tolerance, problem-solving questioning, trial and error, democracy [30]

#### **Question 4**

41 Discuss four characteristics that mark the work of critical theorists (8)

42 Name any two proponents of critical theory

(2)

#### Question 5

Discuss three identifying characteristics of Critical Theory

(6)

#### FOUR CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAKE THE WORK OF CRITICAL THEORISTS

Critical theory is the method of enquiry in philosophy which questions existing social, political and economic systems.

The critical theory believes that the ultimate objective is the emancipation of man from oppression and exploitation. It refers to the self-conscious critique that is aimed at change and emancipation through enlightment and does not cling dogmatically to the

status quo. Critical theorists want the school to be

- Critical theorists believe that any form of power structure is dangerous and destructive. Critical theory sees the school as a place where different groups are in conflict. The theorists argue that many structures in contemporary society, including educational institutions, are used by powerful groups to control those who lack power. Furthermore, the power holders seek to impose their knowledge, beliefs and values on those who lack economic and political power. Hence, power structures are ideological as they affect the way human beings think.
- Marxism as a form of critical theory wants to abolish or destroy all forms of inequalities of wealth and social inequalities.
- Calls for social justice
- Radical criticism of the social and economic inequalities of the society
- Michel Foucault claimed that by insisting that people follow rules and regulations, institutions force people to be artificial.

#### 4.2 Proponents of critical theory:

- Jesus of Nazareth
- Karl Marx
- Gautama Buddha
- Michel Foucault
- Paul Freire
- Frantz Fanon
- Amilcar Cabral

EDC1015 EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo QUESTION 5		
QUE	SHON 3	
5 1	Distinguish between critical theory and critical rationalism	(6)
5 2	How does systems theory approach a problem?	(6)
53	How can critical theory help society?	(3)
		[15]

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CRITICAL THEORY AND CRITICAL RATIONALISM (6)

- In <u>critical rationalism</u>, it is believed that ideas should be based on facts whereas in <u>critical theory</u> it based on changing the system which is emotionally related because people have been hurt by people in power.
- In <u>critical rationalism</u>, their approach to solving a problem is to ask questions of an idea and then with another and so on whereas in <u>critical theory</u>, their approach to solving a problem is looking at the whole picture at a glance and not in parts and from there living by a way that can solve the problem.
- In <u>critical rationalism</u>, the reason for why we ask questions is to find out the truth whereas in <u>critical theory</u>, the reason why we live by a certain way is to stop the system, abusive power.

#### 5.3 HOW CAN CRITICAL THEORY HELP SOCIETY? (3)

- Help us to re-examine our own priorities.
- Help us to identify those that have power and the ones that do not.
- Help us to identify weaknesses in existing power relations.

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

"Tshedi is a quiet and reserved Grade 6 pupil in a suburbian school. She comes from a home where her parents are university-educated individuals who take their daughters

education seriously. The spend a reasonable amount of time with her after hours to monitor her school work and to ensure she does not have any outstanding assignments. Because of her parental involvement in her schoolwork, Tshedi excels in her studies. Some of Tshedi's classmates are not impressed with her success and tease her by calling her names such as; 'mamas genious', 'teachers favourite' and 'the smart one'. Sometimes, others rummage (dig) in her school bag and destroy her homework for other subjects before she can submit it. Tshedi is a victim of overt (explicit) and covert (hidden) bullying."

How would you as a teacher, draw on your understanding of CRITICAL THEORY and FEMINISM to enable Tshedi to come to terms with her situation and to move on with her

studies?

- Introduction Briefly discuss Tshedi's problem and indicate how you see CRITICAL THEORY and FEMINISM as relevant theories for this particular challenge. (5)
- Body Introduce the key arguments and key players for critical theory and feminism and indicate how, in your view, each of these theories pertains to Tshedi's classroom experiences. (20)
- Conclusion Pool together your arguments in the foregoing sections in a brief summary and close off with a brief sketching of the advantages and disadvantages of critical theory and feminism. (5)
- Introduction

Tshedi excels in his studies because of the amazing support that she receives from her parents. However, her classmates seem to show signs of jelousy 'teachers favourite'. Furthermore, they call her names, invade her privacy by digging in her bag and destroy her homework which shows a lack of respect. Therefore, these are clear signs of bullying which effects her psychologically which is supported with the words 'quiet' and 'reserved'.

In critical theory, I like the idea of looking at the whole picture at a glance which I feel is important in the holistic view of the child and from there figuring out a way that can solve the problem which is bullying. Therefore, involving the community is necessary to discuss matters as a whole pertaining to the child and with all reaching a mutual understanding in how to approach the situation in the best care possible. Furthermore, I believe these steps will help Tshedi in finding the strength or courage within herself (self-confidence) to stand up to such behaviour (feminism).

Therefore, the following pointers are all aspects pertaining to conflict resolution.

■ Body: A few key players in critical theory is Michael Foucault and Karl Marx whereas in feminism, it is Jane Rowland Martin, Betty Friedan and Germaine Greer. However, I would use Michael Foucaults, Karl Marx and Jane Martins theory in solving Tshedi's problem.

As a teacher, I can take action within the classroom which is to introduce 1 of the character pillars, self respect for yourself and self respect for others (feminism). Therefore, I could introduce this by reading an educational book based on a good life lesson. Furthermore, I would help guide Tshedi in developing her self-confidence by encouraging her to be happy and in that way help her feel safe and comfortable enough to communicate with me but provide support to those who bully Tshedi as well. I would also question myself in the sense of if I have maybe done something to maybe contribute to their behaviour since they do call her 'teachers favourite'. Therefore, we are changing the system!, critical theory.

I could also arrange a meeting with the parents on which we discuss (questions) Tshedi's

situation at school. Furthermore, this supports Jane Martins view on how a great deal of

'teaching' takes place in the home. Therefore, in the meeting, we will be able to discuss on how they can also help their daughters spiritual growth, developing woman power!.

The bullies which are Tshedi's classmates definately have a hold on her since she has not said or done anything but keep quiet. Therefore, I could speak to the parents and explain the situation to them and why I feel seeing a child psychologist is in her favour. To have their support will go a long way in helping Tshedi's case. Marxist and critical theorists believe in one not being able to experience happiness if we continue to be dominated by people. By speaking to the child psychologist, we are building on that psychological power! and in feminism, its all about acknowledging that you have a fundamental right in expressing your opinion, to build on that self-esteem but to also acknowledge your weakness. Michael Foucault felt very strongly about acknowledging ones way of living under such harsh conditions. Therefore, he believed in the power of being in control, shaping power!

#### ■ Conclusion

Therefore, by involving all parties to discuss and help with all aspects of Tshedi's situation, she is able to acknowledge herself, her situation and inner strength (feminism). Therefore, Tshedi would have succeeded in identifying who is in power and who is not but if Tshedi slips back into her hole, there is the chance of it leading to despair and violence (critical theory) as well lack a basic level of mutual understanding amongst all students (feminism).

#### 4.2 NAME ANY 2 PROPONENTS OF CRITICAL THEORY. (2)

ANSWER: Jesus of Nazareth, Karl Marx, Gautama Buddha, Moses, Muhammad, Michel Foucault Frantz Fanon, etc.

## SYSTEMS THEORY

3 According to systems theory, how should we approach any problem? Discuss your ideas

HOW TO APPROACH A PROBLEM ACCORDING TO SYSTEM THEORY: (ASK THE

## **FOLLOWING QUESTIONS)**

- 1. Where does the system fit into the total environment?
- 2. How do the components of the system fit together?
- 3. What helps the system to work, and what prevents it from working more efficiently?
- 4. What is the goal of the system?

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **HOW DOES SYSTEMS THEORY APPROACH A PROBLEM? (6)**

By asking the following questions;

- How do the components of the system fit together?
- Where does the system fit into the total environment?
- What helps the system to work and what prevents it from working more efficiently?
- What is the goal of the system?

#### 5.2 HOW DOES SYSTEMS THEORY APPROACH A PROBLEM? (6)

By asking the following questions;

- 1. How do the components of the system fit together?
- 2. Where does the system fit into the total environment?
- 3. What helps the system to work and what prevents it from working more efficiently?
- 4. What is the goal of the system?

# **HERMENEUTICS**

#### WRITE AN ESSAY ON HERMENEUTICS. USE THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:

#### 1. Introduction

The method of enquiry that focuses on signs and symbols and how we interpret them is called hermeneutics. Hermeneutics comes from a Greek word meaning "interpretation".

Hermeneutics asks the following questions: How do we discover or create meaning? How do we understand and interpret the different kinds of symbols we encounter in our world?

(5)

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#### 2. Content

Theorists who have promoted hermeneutics are: Carl Jung, Jean Baudrillard, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Martin Heidegger, Wilhelm Dilthey, Tsenay Serequeberhan, John Mbiti, Ngugi, Cain Hope Felder, Shaun Gallagher.

Main ideas of Hermeneutics:

- Hermeneutics emphasises the importance of listening and observing
- Hermeneutics claims that the individual's life experience influences the way he/she understands the world.
- · Dialogue is important for understanding any issue
- · Hermeneutics is anti-authoritarian
- Hermeneutics encourages the individual to be creative
- Carl Jung: He is a psychologist and believed that all human beings interpret their world, their lives and themselves in certain ways. The universe contains 'universal symbols'. These symbols are key to our healing and happiness and give us clues about how we should live our lives.
- Jean Baudrillard: He is a French philosopher and looked closely at the symbols of consumer society. He said that consumerism has invaded the whole of life and consumer symbols are so powerful that they define us. He was fascinated by shopping

#### malls!

- Hans- Georg Gadamer: He wrote a book entitled,: The art of conversation, and stressed the nature of dialogue and understanding.
- Shaun Gallagher: He is a philosopher of education and believed that the modern classroom needs to make a place for play and creative activities in creating meaning.

Hermeneutics can help us to:

- create meaning
- discover our own hidden artistic abilities
- resist scientific arrogance and domination
- · understand each other
- be more tolerant of each other (5)

#### 3. Conclusion

Summarise your essay and refer to why hermeneutics is largely ignored today

Today hermeneutics is largely ignored because understanding and meaning are not emphasised in learning. Rather the focus is on performance in mathematics, science and cultural studies. Hermeneutics does not disparage science and technology but also believes that happiness is linked to creativity.

#### Question 1

Briefly discuss four main ideas of hermeneutics

(8)

#### **Question 1**

Bnefly discuss four main ideas that are propagated by Hermeneutics

(8)

#### **Question 5**

List FIVE main ideas of Hermeneutics

(5)

#### **ANSWER 1**

#### LIST FIVE MAIN IDEAS OF HERMENEUTICS:

- It places great emphasis on listening and observing.
- Claims that the individual's life-experience influences the way he or she understand the world.
- Affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue.
- It is anti-authoritarian.
- It encourages the individual to create his or her own meaning and understanding.

#### **ANSWER 2**

#### FIVE MAIN IDEAS OF HERMENTICS

Briefly define this method of inquiry: The method of enquiry in philosophy that examines symbols and the meaning of symbols.

#### Main Ideas

- Emphasises the importance of listening and observing.
- Claims that the individual's life-experience influences the way we understand the world.
- It stresses the importance of dialogue in order for people to understand an issue/idea
- It is anti-authoritarian that is to say it is pro-democracy and against hegemony and dictatorship.
- It encourages an individual to create his or her own meaning and understanding.

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### LIST 5 MAIN IDEAS OF HERMENEUTICS.

Answer: The 4 main ideas can be found in RW under 'Philosophers at Work'.

Main ideas that are propagated by hermeneutics:

- 1. Emphasises the importance of listening and observing
- 2. Claims that the individual's life experience influences the way they understand the world
- 3. Affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue
- 4. It is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create their own meaning and understanding 5th could be the focus on literature, art, film, poetry, music and craft. In

other words Hermeneutics encourages us to be creative and to discover our own hidden artistic abilities.

Write an essay on HERMENEUTICS Use the following headings:

## 2.1 Introduction

The origin and history of HERMENEUTICS

(5)

#### 2.2 Content

Indicate the application of HERMENEUTICS in the classroom.

- i) Which subjects/learning areas would make use of HERMENEUTICS?
- (2)
- ii) Discuss four main ideas of HERMENEUTICS and its application in the classroom
- (8)
- iii) Give the name of the most prominent proponent of HERMENEUTICS and discuss two of his/her ideas.

(5)

#### 2.3 Conclusion

Explain in which instances hermeneutics can help us and where it fails us.

(5)

(25)

#### **HERMENEUTICS**

Hermeneutics as a philosophy is a method of enquiry that focuses on symbols, words and sentences as well as how human beings can interpret and understand them.

The following philosophers supported hermeneutics:

Carl Jung

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- Hans-Georg Gadamer
- Martin Heidegger
- John Mbiti
- NgugiwaThiongó
- Cain Hope Felder

Hermeneutics propagated or believe in the following ideas:

- The importance of listening and observing.
- The individual's life-experience influence influences the way he or she understand the world.
- Affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue.
- It is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create his or her own meaning and understanding.

Hermeneutics has the following failings or disadvantages for humanity:

- It cannot help human beings to define problems.
- It cannot help us to overcome injustice.
- It cannot help us to be decisive.
- It does not help us to take action.
- It cannot help us to be more logical.

#### **QUESTION 2**

Write a short paragraph on hermeneutics as a philosophy. In your answer refer to the following aspects

- · supporters of hermeneutics
- · three ideas propagated by hermeneutics
- · two aspects hermeneutics cannot help us with

[15]

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

# 2.3. NAME 5 MAIN IDEAS OF HERMENEUTICS. INDICATE 2 SUBJECTS WHERE YOU CAN USE HERMENEUTICS IN YOUR TEACHING.

Answer: (The ideas are under 'Philosophers at Work' – Chapter 8- RW.

Applying the philosophy is subject- specific.)

- 1. Emphasises the importance of listening and observing
- 2. Claims that the individual's life experience influences the way they understand the world
- 3. Affirms the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of any issue
- 4. It is anti-authoritarian and encourages the individual to create their own meaning and understanding Can use it in art, music, poetry.

#### **ANSWER 2**

#### STUDENT NOTES

# NAME 5 MAIN IDEAS OF HERMENEUTICS. INDICATE 2 SUBJECTS IN WHERE YOU CAN USE HERMENEUTICS IN YOUR TEACHING. (10)

• Hermeneutics uses symbols to help conjure human emotions. Hermeneutics can come in different shapes and form (ie poetry or music) and from there its a matter of us

taking bits and pieces that relate to us to and with that create meaning. Furthermore, you end up reaching a certain level of understanding.

- Furthermore, the individuals experience influences how we understand the world.
- One needs to either observe or listen when taking in information. Otherwise, hermeneutics cannot conjure up any emotion.
- Hermeneutics highlights the importance of using a dialogue or a song in arriving at a basic understanding of an issue.
- Universal symbols are the key to ones happiness and healing. They are seen as clues that guide people in how to live their lives.
- Science: A discussion on Mercury. I will use pictures to communicate my ideas on the planet, What do you think Mercury looks like? What shape is it? Which one do you feel most happiest with?. Therefore, by asking them questions and getting them involved, their experience will influence the way they see the planet.
- Mathematics: I would encourage the learners to take a story sum and convert it into a number sentence. However, they can write it as how they see it. For example: The usual way is  $25 + 15 + 10 = \Box$  but maybe because the story sum is referring to a pattern, the learner could see it as  $\circ + \Box + \circ = \diamondsuit$ . Therefore, their experience in reading the text lead to them developing such a mathematical clue!

# **MODERNISM**

How would you define modernism?

#### **Question 5**

- 5 1 Give a definition of modernism. (1)
- 5 2 What does postmodernism tell us? (2)
- 5 3 Where does postmodernism fail? (3)

# **GIVE A DEFINITION OF MODERNISM**

# 3.1 How would you define modernism?

The method of enquiry in philosophy which believes that the perfect world must be avoided or controlled purely by science and technology. In actual fact modernists believe that science and technology can solve all our problems.

# 3.2 WHAT DOES POST-MODERNISM TELL US?

Postmodernism tells us that there must be something else besides science and technology that can fix things.

# 3.3 TWO ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION THAT POSTMODERNISTS EXAMINE? (2)

- The way in which people see themselves
- The failure of science to solve problems.
- Our inner needs
- The power of institutions over the individual.
- Mental anguish and mental illness
- Whether technology is morally neutral.

# (ANY TWO IDEAS)

# 3.4 TWO THINKERS ASSOCIATED WITH POSTMODERNISM (2)

- Jacques Derrida
- Michael Foucault
- Jean Bandrillard
- Jacques Lacan

# (ANY TWO ABOVE)

# 3.5 WHERE DOES POSTMODERNISM FAIL? (2)

- It may encourage destructive behaviour such as drug dependency.
- The lt did not give us any alternatives to science as a way forward.
- The lt underestimates the need for disciplined effort in any human endeavour.
- The lt can lead to despair.
- The lit is elitist. It does not use simple language which can be understood by uneducated people.

# **STUDENT NOTES**

# **ANSWER 2**

# 3.1 HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE MODERNISM? (2)

Answer: Modernism is based on the conviction that science has improved, and will improve, the lives of human beings.

# 3.2 WHAT DOES POSTMODERNISM TELL US? (2)

Answer: Postmodernism tells us we need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

# 3.3 IDENTIFY 2 ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION THAT POSTMODERNISM

# **EXAMINES? (2)**

Answer: 1. the way in which we see ourselves

2. the failure of science to solve many problems

(any 2 from the 12 listed in RW under 'Philosophers at Work')

# 3.4 NAME 2 THINKERS ASSOCIATED WITH POSTMODERNISM. (2

Answer: 1. Jacques Derrida 2. Michel Foucault 3. Jean Baudrillard 4. Jacques Lacan (see 'Philosophers at Work'- RW)

# 3.5 WHERE DOES POSTMODERNISM FAIL? (2)

Answer: It may encourage destructive behaviour such as drug dependency.

It has not given us any alternative to science as a way forward.

It underestimates the need for human effort in any endeavour.

It can lead to despair.

WHY?

It needs to simplify its language to make it more accessible to Non-intellectuals.

- 3 3 Identify TWO aspects of the human condition that postmodernism examines (2)
- 3 4 Name TWO thinkers who are associated with postmodernism (2)
- 3 5 Where does postmodernism fail?

5 To which methods of enquiry does postmodernism relate and why?

TO WHICH METHODS OF ENQUIRY DOES POSTMODERNISM RELATE AND

Modernism is a method of enquiry in philosophy which claims that science and technology can fix all human problems. On the other hand, postmodernism is the antithesis of modernism in that it claims that science and technology cannot solve all problems human beings face. So postmodernism is a response to the inadequacy of modernism.

(2)

(2

# 5.3 PHILOSOPHIES RELATED TO POSTMODERNISM

- Phenomenology (Who are we?)
- Hermeneutics (Hermeneutics believe symbols and images speak to us.)
- Empiricism (What is actually going on?)
- Some form of feminism (Feminism asks: who says the male is the norm

#### Question 6

Name four aspects of the human condition that Postmodernism examines

(4)

(4

(8)

# 5.2 CONDITIONS OF HUMAN LIFE POSTMODERNISM EXAMINES

- The way in which we see ourselves.
- The failure of science to solve problems.
- The power of large, modern institutions (schools, large business organisations, hospitals, media etc.) over the individual.
- Our inner needs.
- Criminality and delinquency.

# QUESTION 5

- Distinguish between modernism and postmodernism 5 1
- Discuss four aspects of the human condition that postmodernism examines 52

Which three philosophies are related to postmodernism? 53 [15

# 3.1 DEFINE MODERNISM.

Answer: Modernism is based on the conviction that science and technology has improved, and will improve, the lives of human beings.

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### 3.2. DEFINE POSTMODERNISM.

Answer: Postmodernism tells us we need to rethink our belief in science and technology.

# 3.3 GIVE 3 PHILOSOPHIES RELATED TO POSTMODERNISM AND EXPLAIN THE RELATION.

#### Answer:

- Phenomenology which asks 'Who are we?'
- Hermeneutics which believes symbols and images speak to us.
- Empiricism which asks 'What is actually going on?'
- Feminism which asks 'Who says the male is the norm?'

#### **QUESTION 4**

- 41 Give a definition for 'modernism' and 'postmodernism' focusing on the differences
  - (4)

(4)

- 42 Give 2 philosophies related to postmodernism and explain the relation

43 What does postmodernism help us to do?

(2)(10)

# **STUDENT NOTES**

# GIVE A DEFINITION FOR MODERNISM AND POSTMODERNISM, FOCUSING ON THE DIFFERENCES (4)

- Modernism holds the belief that science and tecnology can fix everything whereas with
- postmodernism, it is the complete opposite, it leans more to how the media can be deceiving and how you need to question science.
- Modernism believes that emotions need to be 'watched' whereas in postmodernism, it is believed that to search for true meaning, you need the help of experiencing all

emotions.

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# 4.2 GIVE 2 PHILOSOPHIES RELATED TO POSTMODERNISM AND EXPLAIN THE **RELATION (4)**

- Empiricism Postmodernism encourages us to rethink our beliefs and in empiricism we can end up believing in something that is based on our personal experiences and people have questioned religious experiences before since these visions happen to some and not all and therefore, supports the statement in postmodernism on how it encourages one to rethink ones beliefs.
- Phenomenology Phenomenology encourages us to ask questions in order to figure out who we are whereas in postmodernism it is similar in the sense of asking questions in order to not be vulnerable to societies negative influences. Therefore, just like in postmodernism we need to take control of ones own thoughts because both empiricism and postmodernism empowers us to act by thinking and feeling!

# 4.3 WHAT DOES POSTMODERNISM HELP US TO DO? (2)

- Reassess the quality of our lives
- Resist pressures to turn into workaholics.

# METHODS OF ENQUIRY IN PHILOSOPHY CONNECTED TO POSTMODERNISM:

- 1. Phenomenology (it asks who are we?)
- 2. Hermeneutics (it believes symbols and images speak to us)
- 3. Empiricism (it asks what is actually going on)
- 4. Some forms of feminism (it asks who says the male is the norm)

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4 1	Explain the concept of postmodernism	C
4 2	Discuss briefly three main ideas of postmodernism	
43	Name any two main supporters of postmodernism (	
4 4	Where does postmodernism fail?	

# STUDENT NOTES

# **EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF POSTMODERNISM (2)**

- Unlike modernism, Postmodernism is more about how the media can be deceiving. Therefore, in postmodernism, one does not believe in definitions.
- Furthermore, postmodernism involves questioning science, encourages us to rethink our beliefs in science and the facts provided because the responses can be biased.

# 4.2 DISCUSS BRIEFLY 3 MAIN IDEAS OF POSTMODERNISM (6)

- Challenges our faith in modernism.
- Question all truth and raises important questions.
- A belief that there is something else besides science and technology that can fix things.

# 4.3 NAME ANY 2 MAIN SUPPORTERS OF POSTMODERNISM (2)

- Michael Foucault
- Jacques Lacan

# 4.4 WHERE DOES POSTMODERNISM FAIL? (5)

- May encourage destructive behaviour ie Drug dependency.
- Not yet given any alternatives to science as a way forward.
- Underestimates the need for disciplined effort in any humans efforts.
- Can lead to despair.
- The language is advanced for some to follow. It needs to be simplified for non intellectuals.

# **ANSWER 2**

# **STUDENT NOTES**

# **DEFINE MODERNISM (2)**

- Modernism holds the belief that science and tecnology can fix everything.
- Modernism is based on how science has improved and will improve and especially change lives. Furthermore, it is based on facts.

# 3.2 DEFINE POSTMODERNISM (2)

- Postmodernism tells us that there must be something else besides science and technology that can fix things. Furthermore, it is believed that the media can be deceiving and how one needs to question science and that of the progress, what drives us?.
- In postmodernism, it is believed that to search for true meaning, you need the help of experiencing all emotions.

# 3.3 GIVE 3 PHILOSOPHIES RELATED TO POSTMODERNISM AND EXPLAIN THE RELATION. (6)

• Empiricism - Postmodernism encourages us to rethink our beliefs and in empiricism

we can end up believing in something that is based on our personal experiences and people have questioned religious experiences before since these visions happen to some and not all and therefore, supports the statement in postmodernism on how it encourages one to rethink ones beliefs.

- Phenomenology Phenomenology encourages us to ask questions in order to figure out who we are whereas in postmodernism it is similar in the sense of asking questions in order to not be vulnerable to societies negative influences. Therefore, just like in postmodernism we need to take control of ones own thoughts because both empiricism and postmodernism empowers us to act by thinking and feeling!
- Form of feminism Postmodernism does involve questioning science but its a matter of not being vulnerable to societies negative influences but there is a saying called we are human. Therefore, this is where feminism comes in, when questioning the science/facts, one hopes they dont come across any negative statements that are seen as hurtful.

# **EXSTENTIALISM**

#### **QUESTION 4**

4.1 Describe three main ideas of existentialism

(6)

4.2 Explain the concept of nihilism

(2)

4.3 Name two supporters of existentialism

(2) [10]

# 4.1 THREE MAIN IDEAS OF EXISTENTIALISM

- Therefore, the meaning of life is relative or subjective.
- Human beings should decide for themselves what life is about.
- Modern institutions, distorted human life and the innocence of the human soul.

# **4.2 THE CONCEPT OF NIHILISM**

Nihilism is a philosophy which believes that there is no purpose in life and there is no such thing as the soul. It is a philosophy of nothingness and the vanity of life.

# 4.3 TWO SUPPORTERS OF EXISTENTIALISM

- Michael Foucault
- The Dalai Lama
- Thomas Moore

1 5 Explain why nihilism is the opposite of existentialism

(4

# **STUDENT NOTES**

#### Nihilism:

Opposite of Existentialism.

- → No such thing as a soul
- → Motto is "So What?!"
- → Can lead to violence & chaos
- → Can free people (esp if from very repressive religious background / upbringing / environment

**→** 

# **QUESTION 2**

Discuss three ways in which existentialism can help us

1

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#### **STUDENT ANSWERS**

# THREE WAYS IN WHICH EXISTENTIALISM CAN HELP US.

- ü Question other peoples ideas & values
- ü Be more open about ourselves
- ü Trust our instincts
- ü Spot fakes

Enjoy life more

# **PHENEMONOLOGY**

#### Question 3

Describe three ways in which phenomenology can help us

(6)

# PHENOMENOLOGY HELPS US TO:

- 1. Examine closely our lives
- 2. Reject false value systems
- 3. Slow down and lead less stressful lives
- 4. Resist other people's demands and expectations
- 5. Find happiness
- 4 How would you apply phenomenology in your classroom?

(4)

# PHENOMENOLOGY: IN THE CLASSROOM TEACHING AND LEARNING:

→ LEARNING IS THE DISCOVERY OF THE SELF.

→ TEACHING IS HELPING LEARNERS TO DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE.

#### Write an essay on phenomenology. Use the following headings.

#### 2.1 Introduction

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Briefly describe phenomenology as a theoretical framework and refer to its relation to human beings and the world

#### 2.2 Content

Discuss phenomenology and explain 1) how it can help us, and 2) where it can fail us

#### 2.3 Conclusion

Discuss briefly what the consequences are if we ignore phenomenology as a theoretical framework

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# **STUDENT NOTES**

#### **ESSAY PHENOMENOLOGY**

Phenomenology – the method of enquiry that asks us to reflect on ourselves and the world we live in.

- \_ Phenomenology claims that human beings and the world interact with each other the whole time, the one influencing the other.
- Phenomenology says that we need to connect with the real world.
- \_ Phenomenology claims that our biggest challenge is to confront ourselves in all our ambiguity and complexity and thus to get nearer to the "real me"

# Phenomenology believes:

1. If I am to be "real", then I need to have deep emotional connections with at least one

other human being.

- 2. We must not let other people "rule us" and drive us away from ourselves.
- 3. Falsity is the most dangerous thing.
- Three categories that phenomenology can be put in to:
- 1. Phenomenology of the self (who am I?)
- 2. Social phenomenology (who and what is my community?)
- 3. Cosmic phenomenology (our place in the universe)

# PHENOMENOLOGY: ADVANTAGES/ DISADVANTAGES

# Phenomenology helps us to:

- 1. Examine closely our lives
- 2. Reject false value systems
- 3. Slow down and lead less stressful lives
- 4. Resist other people's demands and expectations
- 5. Find happiness

# Phenomenology fails:

- 1. It can accept social evil
- 2. It can lead to mental confusion
- 3. It can be very morally demanding
- 4. It has been criticized for not being a problem solving philosophy
- 5. It tends to be too uncritical of authority

#### **NB NB NB**

If we ignore phenomenology, we would lack the capacity to "feel". We may never be able to experience the moments of joy or pain.

#### **Question 4**

4.1 Name THREE categories of phenomenology and also give a question that each would ask (6)

# **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE 3 CATEGORIES OF PHENOMENOLOGY. (3)**

Answer: (see 'Philosophers at Work'- RW and pg 36 study guide)

Phenomenology of the self (who am I?) What is going on inside my mind/head? Social phenomenology (who and what is my community?) What is really happening in society? Cosmic phenomenology (our place in the universe)

# DISCUSS THE CONCEPT OF FALSITY ACCORDING TO PHENOMENOLOGY. (7)

Answer: (see 'Philosophers at Work'- RW) Phenomenology believes that falsity is extremely dangerous. Falsity refers to misrepresentation and distortion.

# Falsity includes:

Individual pretence (eg. Someone who is always out to impress everyone Social falsity (eg. In a party everyone tries to work out who is more important than whom)

#### **Question 5**

5.1 Briefly describe the three categories of phenomenology

(3)

5.2 Discuss the concept of falsity according to phenomenology

(7) [10]

# **5.1 THREE CATEGORIES OF PHENOMENOLOGY**

- Phenomenology of the self
- Social phenomenology
- Cosmic phenomenology

# 5.2 THE CONCEPT OF FALSITY ACCORDING TO PHENOMENOLOGY

- = Falsity means to deceive, to misrepresent or to distort the real world.
- All forms of phenomenology focus on the real world.
- Falsity includes:
- Individual pretence, hypocrisy, propaganda and prejudice. For example, your friend may pretend to be good and sweet while in actual fact he or she is a wolf wearing the sheep's skin.
- Social falsity e.g. everyone in your neighbourhood may conduct themselves as rich and well-furnished but in reality they are languishing in poverty.

#### **QUESTION 3**

Phenomenology believes that, if I am "to be real", then I need to have deep emotional connections with at least one other human being. Answer the questions below in relation to phenomenology

- 3 1 Mention any two people who promoted phenomenology (1)
- 3 2 What is meant by "to be real" with reference to ourselves? (2)
- 3 3 Can phenomenology help us to find happiness? Provide a reason for your answer (2)
- What are the consequences for us if we ignore the philosophy of phenomenology? (2)
- 3 5 Name the three categories phenomenology falls into (3)

(10)

### **STUDENT NOTES**

Phenomenology believes that, "If I am to be real" then I need to have deep emotional connections with at least one human being.

# 3.1 MENTION ANY 2 PEOPLE WHO PROMOTED PHENOMENOLOGY (1)

Martin Luther King and Albert Einstein (scientist)

# 3.2 WHAT IS MEANT BY "TO BE REAL" WITH REFERENCE TO OURSELVES? (2)

• For one to be real, ones journey to get to know oneself, one needs to interact with someone that she or he is close to and whom is positive. Otherwise, that person can drive you away from yourself. Therefore, phenomenology supports the statement on how the two influence one another in order to seek the self. It is therefore, related to what is essentially human and furthermore, focuses on the inner reality of emotions and lived experiences but rejects false value systems.

# 3.3 CAN PHENOMENOLOGY HELP US TO FIND HAPPINESS? REASON (2) PG 93

• Yes, one cannot be truly happy if we do not figure out who we are. We need to explore and

discover what makes us happy while remembering to acknowledge that other peoples negative comments do not have to effect us if we dont let it. Therefore, by finding out who we are, we tend to feel a sense of peace and understanding of ones self. Furthermore, this process of finding the self leads to building ones self confidence.

# 3.4 WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR US IF WE IGNORE THE PHILOSOPHY OF PHENOMENOLOGY? (2)

- We may lack the capacity to feel.
- We may not ever be able to experience the moments of joy or pain.

# 3.5 NAME THE THREE CATEGORIES PHENOMENOLOGY FALLS INTO (3)

- Phenomenology of the self (who am I?),
- Social phenomenology (who and what is my community?) and the
- Cosmic phenomenology which entails our place in the universe.

# **STUDENT NOTES**

If we ignore phenomenology, we would lack the capacity to "feel". We may never be able to experience the moments of joy or pain.

# **CRITICAL RATIONALSIM**

Write an essay on Critical Rationalism Use the following headings

#### 2.1 Introduction

Discuss the origin and history of Critical Rationalism

(5)

#### 2.2 Content

Indicate the application of Critical Rationalism in the classroom

- i) Which subjects/learning areas would make use of Critical Rationalism?
- ii) Discuss four main ideas of Critical Rationalism and its application in the classroom
- iii) Give the name of the most prominent proponent of Critical Rationalism and discuss two of his ideas

#### 2.3 Conclusion

Explain in which instances Critical Rationalism can help us and where it fails us

# **CRITICAL RATIONALISM ESSAY**

# Origin and History

Goes back to Socrates, who lived from 470 to 399 BC. Socrates encouraged us to challenge existing ideas and beliefs by questioning them. The Anthenian authorities executed Socrates because he questioned the religious practices of the day – the worship of the gods.

Subjects/Learning Areas:

1. Science (develop a questing attitude)

Most proper proponent:

2. Karl Popper - We can find that a statement is definitely false, but not that it is definitely true – principle of falsification. We usually try to prove something wrong in critical rationalism by using the trial and error method.

# **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES**

- \_ Critical rationalism can help:
- 1. Question what people in authority tell us
- 2. Be more open to what other people think
- 3. Examine our own opinions more carefully
- 4. Be more tolerant and understanding.
- 5. Solve problems
- \_ Critical rationalism cant help:
- 1. Make quick decisions
- 2. Find the meaning of life
- 3. Deal with people who are dishonest
- 4. It can make us feel insecure
- 5. The problem of suffering

#### Question 4

Who is the main proponent of critical rationalism? Name two of his main ideas

(3)

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

# 1.2 DISCUSS TWO MAIN IDEAS IN CRITICAL RATIONALISM.

Answer: (pg 9-10 study guide)

- 1. The importance of clear thinking, asking questions and being willing to learn from mistakes and false theories.
- 2. Nobody starts scientific research with a blank mind. One starts off with ideas and theories that one tests for falsity. We try to prove something wrong by using the trial-and-error method. This is called the "principle of falsification".
- 3. Societies should be more open so that problems can be discussed and solved through free exchange of ideas.
- 4. Critical rationalists believe we must be open to having our values challenged, in keeping with the principles of democracy.
- 5. Values like honesty, reliability and truthfulness guide scientific research to ensure the results are reliable, but science and objectivity should be used to examine our values.

# 1.3 WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CRITICAL RATIONALISM?

Answer: (see 'What Critical Rationalism can help us do' - RW)

Critical rationalism can help:

- 1. Question what people in authority tell us
- 2. Be more open to what other people think
- 3. Examine our own opinions more carefully
- 4. be more tolerant and understanding.
- 5. Solve problems

(6)

# EDC1015 EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo

- 1 4 What type of false statement is used in each of the following sentences and why?
  - Thandi says that abortion is wrong. Who cares what she thinks? She is a religiou fanatic.
  - b) Corporal punishment will bring down the level of crime in schools
  - c) The Bible tells us that we must be born again otherwise we will go to hell

# WHAT TYPE OF FALSE STATEMENTS ARE THESE ANS WHY?

- A) NAME-CALLING: Attacking the person and the opinion he or she has. Eg. Sipho says the DA is the best party to vote for, because they have sound economic policies. That's typical of DA supporters, they're all greedy capitalists.
- B. FALSE CAUSE AND EFFECT: Falsely claiming that an action has or will have a certain effect. Eg. If government bans guns, then we'll have a lot less violence in South Africa.
- C. FALSELY CLAIMING THAT BECAUSE A POINT OF VIEW IS POPULAR IT MUST BE TRUE: Eg. Our religion is the fastest growing religion in South Africa today, that's because we teach the truth.

#### **QUESTION 1**

Briefly discuss four types of false argument and give an example of each one

(8)

# **STUDENT NOTES**

# **TYPES OF FALSE ARGUMENT: P27**

- NAME-CALLING: Attacking the person and the opinion he or she has. Eg. Sipho says the DA is the best party to vote for, because they have sound economic policies. That's typical of DA supporters, they're all greedy capitalists.
- FALSE CAUSE AND EFFECT: Falsely claiming that an action has or will have a certain effect. Eg. If government bans guns, then we'll have a lot less violence in South Africa.
- FALSELY REPRESENTING A OPINION TO DISCREDIT IT: Straw man argument. Eg. People who say there's no God think it's okay to ignore moral rules.

- APPEAL TO EMOTION (USUALLY FEAR) Appeals to emotion are probably the easiest type of false argument to spot. Eg. The people of South Africa have a choice, either vote for our political party or watch the crime rate get worse.
- FALSELY CLAIMING THAT BECAUSE A POINT OF VIEW IS POPULAR IT MUST BE TRUE: Eg. Our religion is the fastest growing religion in South Africa today, that's because we teach the truth.

#### Question 1

Describe ways in which critical rationalism can help us and how it can fail us

[10]

#### Question 3

Give FIVE advantages of Critical Rationalism

(5)

# DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH CRITICAL RATIONALISM CAN HELP US AND HOW CAN IT FAIL US?

# Give five ways in which critical rationalism can help us. (5)

Question people in authority

More open about what others think and say

Examine own opinion

Be tolerant of others

Be understanding of others

Solve problems

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

- Makes people feel insecure
- o No help with quick decisions/immediate action
- o Cannot help with finding meaning in life

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Question 1					
1.1	From which ancient philosophy originated critical rationalism? (1)				
1.2	Discuss TWO main ideas in critical rationalism. (2)				
1.3	What are the advantages of critical rationalism?				

Started with Socrates. He was killed when he questioned religious practices of today. He challenged others to challenge existing ideas and question them, which is critical rationalism but also to critically evaluate ones own idea as well.

EXAM PREP (J/F 2010 – M/J 2018)

- Therefore, encourages individualism and freedom of expression but to be objective.
- One has the power of thought and can be easily abused and thats why critical rationalism is needed, to critically evaluate ones own ideas as well as others as a means to seek for true understanding/truth.
- Involves exchanging ideas and being open-minded
- Involves people expressing themselves openly without getting personal, therefore, based on facts
- Critical rationalism means to critically evaluate an idea but to look out for hidden assumptions
- To listen to others attentively, this is part of being open minded and respectful.
- Involves asking open ended questions that help in seeking the truth or the best outcome
- Involves critically evaluating ideas and avoiding false arguments.
- An example of critical rationalism in the classroom would be holding a debate on a topic where learners collaborate in groups in exchanging ideas such as

- "Learner A: How can we feel safe if murders are walking around freely? Learner B: They can be put behind bars?"
- Therefore, to challenge what they think while being tolerant and understanding.

# EXPLAIN THE PHILOSOPHY OF CRITICAL RATIONALISM ALSO KNOWN AS SCIENTIFIC RATIONALISM

#### THE INTRODUCTION

- The key idea is that critical rationalism is a philosophy which encourages questioning and open-mindedness through debates/discussions.
- It is anti-dogmatic and anti-authoritarian
- It advocates for democratic processes as opposed to dictatorship and authoritarianism.
- The whole idea is that it makes people to make sure that they do not believe in a fable idea.

Critical rationalists ask one simple question: "Are we sure we are right?" Indicate that this view has its own fair share of advantages and disadvantages or strengths and weaknesses.

#### THE BODY

advantages/strengths or positive aspects of critical rationalism.

The philosophy helps people to be assertive, critical and promote openmindedness. Human beings in a society are encouraged not to accept what the

EXAM PREP (J/F 2010 – M/J 2018)

politicians, culture and media put across to them without questioning the ideas. Hence it is not reliable to rely on our leaders' ideas only for they may be false.

- To avoid falsity all ideas, suggestions or prescriptions coming our way from politicians, religion, culture and media must be critically analysed. People should not trust politicians too much.
- The philosophy also helps people in different power relations to be more tolerant and accommodating. Through critical rationalism the people with hegemonic power will not take their subordinates for a ride, since they would know that people would question and hold them accountable.
- People with power will be more open to what other people think. By and large, critical rationalism plays a crucial role in promoting true democracy where everyone would play a part in the political affairs of the country or community.
- In the absence of critical rationalism, people would be subjected to autocratic and dictatorship regimes.
- Critical rationalism promotes a problem-solving attitude in our community. Through trial and error, humanity will question the current methods of bringing solutions to current problems. Through that process new methods of solving problems would emerge.

On the other hand, critical rationalism has its own fair share of weaknesses or failings:

- It prohibits people to make quick decisions since they would be need for more to debate issues.
- It does not help people to pick out hypocrisy and dishonesty inherent in some

people during some debates. Some people would be more articulate hence they will entice other people to believe their ideas which might be false.

Due to divergent thinking, critical rationalism breeds a lot of conflict in our communities thereby making people insecure.

EXAM PREP (J/F 2010 – M/J 2018)

Critical rationalism does not address spiritual matters. For example, it cannot help people to find the meaning of life and solve the problem of suffering.

# Conclusion

Summarise your essay and indicate your view or opinion with regards to critical rationalism. Take a stance and briefly substantiate or support it.

#### STUDENT NOTES

# BRIEFLY DISCUSS 4 MAIN IDEAS OF CRITICAL RATIONALISM AND INDICATE **HOW THIS THEORY CAN ASSIST YOU IN YOUR TEACHING. (10)**

- Socrates: Challenge existing ideas and to question them. Encourages freedom of expression, individualism. Schools today now encourage critical rationalism and freedom of expression.
- Challenging ideas and critically evaluating each others statements and your owns can help one in finding the best solution to a problem in a debate. Furthermore, this idea can help me in encouraging them to practise the art of being open minded and respectful to one anothers opinion since we all are equal. Therefore, freedom of expression, individualism.
- Carl Sagan: Goes against one telling you what to do and controlling ones fait. Critical rationalism should look out for false arguments.

- As a class, we can discuss the main idea of a comprehension. I will ask open-ended questions and from there listen and observe for any signs of falsity. A learner may base her view on a belief that she grew up with or it could be a case of one being called names. In this case, we are practising the art of critical rationalism and the universal values of being respectful.
- To be tolerant and understanding. However, it is not easy to admit when one is wrong but in the case of having a different idea to another, we can question a belief that is believed to be true.
- After picking up litter in the playground, the class can discuss the importance of such an act, Is it neccessary or not?. As a teacher, I can predict different responses and encourage the students to be tolerant and understanding.
- To be objective which makes it easier in seeking the truth or solving a problem.
- As a Grade 3 teacher, in a Maths lesson, when doing problem solving story sums on the mat, we can read a story sum all together and then I can encourage the learners to read the sentences carefully by themselves followed by asking the one student with a basic question, Which sum do you think it is? Why? Who disagrees? Why?. Therefore, I can encourage critical thinking at a young age. However, in this case I would remind them to stick to the text, the words. Therefore, the facts.

# **TUTORIAL 201 2018 SEMSTER 2**

You are a language teacher for Grade 10. You are a critical rationalist and want to apply the basic ideas of the philosophical framework in your class. You decide to hold a debate about the death penalty. Discuss how you will use the basic tenets of Critical Rationalism to do that. Keep the following in mind:

# INTRODUCTION

# Give a definition of Critical Rationalism (3)

**Questioning NB** 

Debate/argumentation NB

Critical = challenging ideas

Rationalism = rational thinking processes NB

# **Explain the history of Critical Rationalism (2)**

Socrates in Ancient Greece

Encourage people to challenge ideas and to question

Executed for his ideas

# CONTENT

# Discuss the idea of open-mindedness in this scenario. (3)

Question own and others' ideas

Speak mind openly without fear

Open societies encourage open-mindedness

In class – divide group in two = for and against death penalty

Class needs to listen to each other and try to falsify arguments with factual knowledge

# How will anti-dogmatic thinking help the class to come to a conclusion? (3)

Anti-dogmatic means not to make emotional decisions in a debate about contentious issues Class will have to learn to listen to each other and to take facts and good reasoning into consideration to decide what is acceptable and what is not. If one group does not agree with the other, they need to discuss and try to falsify. Objectivity is important.

# How will democracy feature in a class discussion like in this scenario? (3)

Democracy is part of open societies and open-mindedness

All must be able to speak their mind freely and to discuss issues openly

Critical Rationalism is essential for the future of democracy

Each person in the class needs to be able to speak his/her mind freely about the issue that is being debated

Describe how the idea of falsification will help to come to an acceptable outcome in the debate?(3)

It is important not to believe in an idea that is false

We can progress in our knowledge if we do not just accept anything anybody says – we need to think about it and try to falsify the information

Scientists need to be objective – they need to be in discussion about the truth

The two groups really need to debate the issue and try to falsify each other's ideas

# CONCLUSION

# Give five ways in which critical rationalism can help us. (5)

Question people in authority

More open about what others think and say

Examine own opinion

Be tolerant of others

Be understanding of others

Solve problems

#### STUDENT NOTES

### 2.1 BRIEFLY DISCUSS 4 MAIN IDEAS OF CRITICAL RATIONALISM.

Answer:

- 1. Open-mindedness The educator and learners learn from each other through free exchange of ideas.
- 2. Anti-dogmatic and anti-authoritarian There is no single authority figure. The educator discusses with the learners about what to learn and how to learn it.
- 3. Avoiding falsity- In subjects like Math and science, all solutions to problems are discussed and criticized to ensure they are not false.
- 4. Objectivity The educators, like scientists, discuss with other educators how to solve common classroom problems to make sure this is how others would solve similar problems.
- 5. Democratic The educator and learners discuss what to learn and how to learn it.

# **LOGICAL EMPERIALISM**

2 Which three theories form logical empiricism? Explain what these theories entail (6)

# WHICH 3 THEORIES FORM LOGICAL EMPIRICISM? EXPLAIN WHAT THESE THEORIES ENTAIL?

Linguistic Analysis, logical symbolism and empiricism together formed the school of British philosophy known as logical empiricism.

<u>Empiricism</u> – the method of inquiry in philosophy which argues that experience gained through the traditional 5 senses gives us our most reliable form of information.

<u>Linguistic analysis</u> is concerned with the question : "What is the meaning of the word or sentence?" More precisely: What is the meaning of these symbols?

<u>Logical symbolism</u>: The philosophical movement that focused on logic. The aim, to arrive at the basic structure of truth. Any statement that is true or false by definition can be expressed in the form of symbolic logic.

#### Question 2

What are three disadvantages of Empiricism?

(3

# DISCUSS THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF LOGICAL EMPIRICISM.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Encourage disciplined thinking	Ignore human values
Discourage prejudice	Considers emotions as unimportant
Help with clear thinking	Places too much emphasis on science
Verifies knowledge	

# **STUDENT NOTE**

# DISCUSS THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF LOGICAL EMPIRICISM. (10)

- Advantages :
- Learning from ones experience.
- Be able to respect the natural laws of the universe.
- Think clearly.
- Be able to test the truth that people claim.
- Understanding how our physical world operates.

- Disadvantages:
- Too much focus is placed on science.
- It views human beings as machines.
- Ignores human values.
- Ignores anything that cannot be explained scientifically.
- Truth is restricted to what we can experience through our 5 senses.

#### Question 5

Explain three consequences of ignoring Empiricism

(6 marks)

# CONSEQUENCES OF IGNORING

It is believed that if one ignores learning from ones own personal experience, we can be left vulnerable to false claims.

# **Question 2**

2.1 What is the main emphasis of linguistic analysis?

(1)

2.2 On what did Russel and Ayer focus in their work?

(1)

2 3 How did empiricism fail us?

(4)

#### Question 4

What is Logical Empiricism also known as and what three methods of enquiry does it consist of?

(4)

# LOGICAL EMPIRICISM IS ALSO KNOWN AS LOGICAL POSITIVISM.

The three methods of enquiry consist of:

- Linguistic analysis
- Logical symbolism
- Empiricism

#### **QUESTION 1**

Write a short paragraph on empiricism

(1

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

# **EMPIRICISM (10)**

- Empiricism origins in British and American philosophy.
- Empiricism helps people to understand the physical world, it tells the truth of certain claims and what is false, respect the natural laws of the universe and to learn from experience.
- It is believed that experience gives us our most reliable form of knowledge. Therefore, at the end of the day, you experiencing something makes it more honest and believable.
- Therefore, the mothod of enquiry in philosophy argues that our most reliable form of knowledge is understanding our world through the use of our 5 senses.
- Darwin argues the fact that everything has naturally evolved over time (Cycle of a frog). Therefore, his statement is based on empiricism, ones observation.
- Richard Dawkins also relys on empiricism as his argument.
- However, people do argue ones religious experience (empiricism). People have spiritual experiences with the higher power such as visions. People question why not all people have that same experience since he is the creator of all human beings.
- It is believed that if one ignores learning from ones own personal experience, we can be left vulnerable to false claims.

- Therefore, people that believe in empiricism believe in science because of the fact that I am able to test it scientifically myself!
- Marxism who promotes empiricism tends to be critical of religion and ideologies.

# 2.3 HOW DID EMPIRICISM FAIL US?

Answer: (see 'What the failings of Empiricism are' - RW)

Failings of empiricism:

- 1. It places too much emphasis on science
- 2. It ignores human values
- 3. It views human beings as machines
- 4. It tends to ignore that which cannot be explained scientifically
- 5. It confines truth to that which can be experienced through the senses

# **FEMINISM**

There is a learner in your class (ECD; Intermediate and Senior Phase, FET and Senior Phase) or community (only General Education) who is HIV-positive. The child lives in a child-headed household (her older sister has to look after her and her brother) and often goes to bed hungry. She does not have a proper school uniform. She is discriminated against at school and in the community. She is often tired and her homework is not done. How can you use your knowledge of African philosophy or critical theory or feminism (choose one framework) to solve the problem?

Your answer should include the following headings

#### 1. Introduction

Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of African philosophy, critical theory or feminism to solve it

#### 2. Content

Discuss African philosophy, critical theory or feminism briefly and show how you will use it to solve the problem

#### 3. Conclusion

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of African philosophy, critical theory or feminism to solve the problem

[25]

#### **TAKEN FROM LUCIANO MEMO**

- A young woman (Mary) heading a family/ taking the responsibilities of an adult while she is still immature and inexperienced in playing that role.
- Being a care-giver at a tender age (caring for a young brother and a sister)
- There is no food on the table- going to bed hungry at times (food security challenges)
- A Mary is still too young for the so demanding responsibility.
- Indecent clothing (do not have a proper uniform and clothing).
- Balancing school work and domestic chores is a challenge hence school life is compromised.
- □ Due to lack of adult support and hindrances in doing the school work the girl has high chances of failure- making the situation vicious cycle.

### MOTIVES OF USING FEMINISM TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Feminism would be used to solve this predicament/problem because:
☐ It focuses on destroying sexual stereotyping.
☐ It creates a bigger place for women in the world.
☐ It rejects the view that women are inferior to men
☐ It focuses on the struggle of African women
☐ It questions and challenges the status quo (critical rationalism and critical theory)
☐ It gives young women like Mary enormous psychological and moral power.
Mary has been let down and robbed by death of her parents her situation needs her to be assertive and fight for her success.
DEFINE FEMINISM
Describe forms of feminism
African feminism
■ British and American feminism
European feminism (Marxism/ Existentialism
■ Islamic feminism
Common ideas/ perspectives in all forms of feminism

- Sexual stereotyping
- Creating a bigger place for woman in the world
- Repeating the view that women are inferior to men

The woman movement in Africa focuses on the struggle of African women to create a space of independence and dignity against triple layers of oppression namely:

- Oppression created by colonialism.
- Western patriarchal culture.
- African patriarchal culture.

Independent feminist voice that will perpetuate the tradition of female involvement in African societal affairs:

- A critical response
- Focuses on the politics of gender and the power relations between men and women. (masculinity vs Femininity)

# First-wave feminism (American and British)

- Focus on the right to vote and that women should be equal before the law
- Questions traditions (critical rationalism)
- Challenges all forms of power (critical theory)
- Look at reality objectively e.g. social reality

# Feminist Christian theology

Ask who said God was male?

■ By insisting on the masculinity of God, we seem to worship maleness rather than the invisible and essentially unknowable God.

#### Basics of feminism

- Women are people in their own right
- Women should reject men's definition of what makes a woman valuable. Women's happiness does not depend on having a romantic or marital relationship with a man.

# **Feminism key question**: who says the male is the norm?

NB. If we ignore feminism we will live in a state of barbarity rather than civilisation. This is because women, rather than men, bring stability; harmony and higher forms of culture e.g. music and art to human society.

## HOW TO USE FEMINISM TO SOLVE MARY'S PROBLEM

### Feminism will be used to:

- Motivate/inspire Mary to develop high self-esteem and confidence
- Mary should be told that she has to be assertive, courageous and strong because she has the capability to do anything
- She should not despise or look down upon herself

# Conclusion: Advantages and disadvantages of feminism

- It encourages women and men to re-examine their value system.
- Gives women enormous psychological and moral power.
- Help rescue traditional marriages that are failing.
- Bring alternative ideas to social problems.

Gives women courage.

### **ESSAY: FEMINISM**

Describe problem and motivate use of framework to solve it.

#### **Discussion:**

EDC1015

All feminists focus on the following issues:

- 1. Sexual stereotyping
- 2. Creating a bigger place for woman in the world
- 3. Rejecting the view that woman are inferior to men

First-wave feminism believe that woman should be given the right to vote and that woman should be equal before the law.

#### First-wave feminism have links to:

- 1. Critical rationalism questions tradition
- 2. Critical theory Challenges all forms of power
- 3. Empiricism asks us to look at reality objectively, including social reality

#### Second-wave feminism claims:

- 1. Women are people in their own right
- 2. Women should reject men's definitions of what makes a woman valuable
- 3. Women should not make defensive claims to "equality with men" if anything woman are superior.
- 4. Women's happiness does not depend on having a romantic or marital relationship with a man.

5. Women have the right to control their own fertility, including abortions on demand.

#### Second-wave feminism have links to:

- 1. Critical rationalism questions the status quo
- 2. Critical theory radically challenges the status quo
- 3. African philosophy attempts to decolonize the effect of domination of white males
- 4. Logical empiricism feminism precisely defines the problems women face
- 5. Empiricism it looks at the actual biological differences between man and woman

Feminism claims that the entire experience of "being human" has been seriously damaged and distorted by masculine domination and the marginalization of woman \_ Feminism claims that woman have been denied basic human rights and that men have shown themselves to be unworthy leaders of the human race by repeatedly indulging in acts of war, violence etc

\_ Feminism is based on the principle that woman have innate worth, inalienable rights, valuable ideas and talents to contribute to society

# **Advantages:**

Second-wave feminist can:

- 1. Encourage woman and men to re-examine their value system
- 2. Give woman enormous psychological and moral power
- 3. Actually help rescue traditional marriages that are failing both partners
- 4. Give woman courage
- 5. Bring alternative ideas to social problems

# **Disadvantages:**

Second-wave feminist fails:

- 1. It tends to dismiss the power and affection created by romantic love between man and woman
- 2. It limits dialogue and understanding between man and woman
- 3. It tends to portray all men as predatory
- 4. It encourages woman to refuse to work alongside men
- 5. It tends to idealise woman

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

## **SCENARIO**

Grace is a young English teacher who has just joined a rural high school following deployment by the Provincial Department of Education. Her new Head of Department, who is male, is very hard on Grace and makes unreasonable demands that Grace perceives as abuse of his position of power. She is uncomfortable opening up to her colleagues in the staffroom for fear they will react and respond to her concerns and she does not know what their relationships are like with the Head of Department.

# Required

Drawing on your knowledge of Feminism, write an essay showing how you can assist Grace in dealing with her abusive Head of department and reach an amicable solution to her problem with her work environment.

Your answer should include the following headings: Introduction- Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of Feminism in solving it. (5)

Discuss Feminism briefly and show how you can use it to solve your problem. (10) Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of Feminism in solving the problem. (5)

#### SUGGESTED SOLUTION

**Introduction-** Identify the problem. I can identify a number of issues. Perhaps you can identify more. Grace has been deployed. This could have affected her confidence and self-esteem. Her boss is a male who she perceives to be demanding and unreasonable. Grace is afraid to speak out. Grace is in need of a 'psychological uplift' before she can tackle her problems and Feminism gives women this psychological power.

Look at the claims made by Feminism on in RW. If Grace were to identify with the philosophy of Feminism, she would gain the confidence necessary for her to speak out. Perhaps her boss is influenced by the patriarchy inherent in his culture and feels he is entitled to make demands on his female subordinates.

Perhaps Grace is by nature a very quiet person who doesn't speak out and he doesn't realize she is unhappy about the demands he makes. If Grace were to subscribe to the feminist ideology, she may gain the confidence necessary to ask the Head of department for clarification regarding her duties as a teacher and how much she is actually expected to do. She may even say quite politely that she feels overwhelmed by the volume of work and ask if they could negotiate a more reasonable schedule. (Note these are only ideas. You may feel differently about the above scenario.)

Refer to the advantages and disadvantages of Feminism. What do you think would happen if Grace were to adopt a more confrontational stance with the Head of Department?

# ANSWER 2 STUDENT NOTES

"Grace is a young English teacher who has just joined a rural high school following deployment by the provincial Department of Education. Her new head of department who is male, is hard on Grace and makes unreasonable demands that Grace perceives as abuse of his position of power. She is uncomfortable opening up to her colleagues in the staffroom for fear that they will react and respond to her concerns, and she does not know what their relationships are like with the head of department."

How can you as a teacher assist Grace in dealing with her abusive head of department and reach an amicable solution to her problem with her work environment. Focus on feminism.

• Introduction (5)

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- Describe the problem.
- Motivate your use of feminism in order to solve the problem.
- Body (10)
- Discuss feminism briefly (The idea you plan on using)
- Explain how you can use feminism as a means to solving this problem.
- Conclusion (5)
- Sum it up (What will be achieved at the end of the day due to the following)
- Refer to the advantages and disadvantages of feminism with regards to solving the problem.

### • INTRODUCTION:

Grace is a young English teacher who has recently moved to a new school, rural area. However, she was forced to move by the provincial Department of Education. In

relation to this big change, she is young and vulnerable at this stage in her life because of the fact that she did not have a choice and as a result, finds it difficult to adapt to her new lifestyle, fear of the unknown. The head of department whom is a male makes unreasonable demands, abuse of power. Therefore, does not make the transition of moving any easier. She does not have a good relationship with him and its for that very reason that she has not spoken to her fellow colleagues, in fear of not knowing their relationship with him and what they may think of her situation, communication is a factor.

As a result, she shows signs of insecurity, 'keeps quiet' and questions other peoples actions before even playing it out in reality. As far as feminism is concerned in the above scenario, equality seems to be an issue as well as develoing the courage to stand up for ones rights.

Therefore, conflict resolution is a necessary process that needs to take place.

## • BODY:

In feminism, women were dominated by men. In Graces situation, I should support the idea of helping her in approaching conflict in a respectable way. Therefore, I would approach Grace and encourage her to rather send the head of Department a personal letter without hampering anyones judgement of him.

This supports the idea behind the First wave feminism which deals with equality. Therefore, to be seen as equals. A good point to keep in mind is that Grace has the right to reject his unreasonable demands. Therefore, women do have the power to say no. However, despite her view on the matter, she will never know the truth about the reason behind his behaviour as she has 'perceived' unless she sends out that letter which supports logical empiricism, finding out the main root to a problem.

Feminsm also supports building ones psychological power! Therefore, I would talk to

the staff in arranging a gathering for Grace to merely welcome her into her new school as well as form new friendships. I would hope this is a positive step forward in helping her to feel safe enough to communicate with others as well as to come to terms with her new location. Furthermore, a nice way to encourage a positive mindset! is to suggest planning a fun meet up session once a week where the staff connect and socialise by playing games.

### CONCLUSION:

Grace has been dealing with internal and external issues that require immediate attention. She cannot ignore her feelings or otherwise she will always be unhappy and without the support from the staff, she would feel as if she is not apart of a civil community. Therefore, communication is essential in building a positive mindset and developing the confidence in addressing the problem.

11 Briefly discuss any three (3) of the main claims made by feminism

### **3 MAIN CLAIMS MADE BY FEMINISM**

- Male domination
- o Female oppression
- o Social roles
- o Sexual stereotyping
- o Power
- o Exclusion
- o Patriarchy

# **QUESTION 3**

Which four methods of enquiry does feminism have links with and why?

(1

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

# WHICH METHODS OF ENQUIRY DOES FEMINISM HAVE LINKS WITH AND WHY?

(6)

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#### First-wave feminism have links to:

- 1. Critical rationalism questions tradition
- 2. Critical theory Challenges all forms of power
- 3. Empiricism asks us to look at reality objectively, including social reality

#### Question 3

Mention and discuss the three layers of oppression identified in African feminism

### **STUDENT NOTES**

Politics of gender is essentially the difference between men and women in a given society with regards to rights, obligations and entitlements.

By and large, this term refers to the inequalities in gender power relations between men and women which are structured around notions of masculinity and femininity.

### 2.2 THREE ISSUES ALL FORMS OF FEMINISM FOCUS ON:

- Stereotyping
- Creating a bigger place for women in the world.
- Rejecting the view that women are inferior to men.

### 2.3 BLACK WOMEN INTERPRET FEMINISM AS:

The struggle of African women to create a space of independency and dignity out of a triple layer of oppression (oppressions created by colonial, Western patriarchal and African patriarchal cultures).

- A movement to liberate them from patriarchal social structures and oppression by men. A movement which challenges patriarchal cultures.
- Male-female complementarity in overcoming discrimination.
- Changes in sexual division of labour in society.

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

### 1.1 SECOND-WAVE FEMINISM CLAIMS:

- 1. Women are people in their own right
- 2. Women should reject men's definitions of what makes a woman valuable
- 3. Women should not make defensive claims to "equality with men" if anything woman are superior.
- 4. Women's happiness does not depend on having a romantic or marital relationship with a man.
- 5. Women have the right to control their own fertility, including abortions on demand.

### **Question 3**

3.1 List FOUR forms of feminism.

(4)

3.2 What does feminism in general claim?

(2)

# **STUDENT NOTES**

### 3.1 LIST 4 FORMS OF FEMINISM.

Answer: African feminism, British and American feminism, European feminism, Islamic feminism.

### 3.2 WHAT DOES FEMINISM IN GENERAL CLAIM?

Answer: Feminism in general claims that women have innate worth, inalienable rights and valuable ideas and talents to contribute to society.

Women should be given equal rights to men and should be respected for themselves as well.

(NB: Don't confuse this answer with the answer to the question 'what claims does feminism make?' (Found in RW- feminism in a Nutshell)

Tshedi is a quiet and reserved Grade 6 pupil in a suburban school. She comes from a home where parents are university-educated individuals who take their daughter's education seriously. They spen reasonable amount of time with her after hours to monitor her school work and to ensure she does have any outstanding assignments. Because of her parental involvement in her school work Tsh excels in her studies. Some of Tshedi's classmates are not impressed with her success and tease her calling her names such as "mama's genius", "teacher's favourite" and "the smart one". Sometimes, oth rummage in her school bag and destroy her homework for other subjects before she can submit it. Tsh is a victim of overt (explicit) and covert (hidden) bullying. How would you as her teacher, draw on y understanding of critical theory and feminism to enable Tshedi to come to terms with her situation and move on with her studies?

Your answer should include the following

#### 1. Introduction

Briefly describe Tshedi's problem and indicate how you see critical theory and feminism as relevant theories for this particular challenge.

(5)

#### 2. Content

Introduce the key arguments and key players of critical theory and feminism and indicate how, in your own view, each of these theories pertains to Tshedi's classroom challenges.

(20)

#### 3 Conclusion

Pool together your arguments in the foregoing sections in a brief summary and close off with a brief sketching of the advantages and disadvantages of critical theory and feminism.

(5)

#### DRAWING ON CRITICAL THEORY AND FEMINISM

There is no fixed solution. Here are a few ideas on how to tackle the essay.

Introduction- Identify the problem. Tshedi faces bullying from jealous classmates because she excels in her studies. The bullies outnumber her and seem to wield some form of power and influence. She is vulnerable to their bullying. Critical theory would help her assess her situation.

Feminism would help boost her self-esteem. From a critical theory perspective assess the situation. Is their bullying a sign of their strength or a sign of their weakness? Why do they resort to bullying?

Tshedi should assess her priorities. Can she challenge their behaviour by exposing their weakness and using it to her own advantage? If not, can she change her own attitude and focus on her own priorities and goals and learn to ignore the bullies? Feminism could help her counter the negative psychological effects of their bullying which could erode her self-esteem.

Feminism gives women courage to create their own happiness by their own standards and not rely on others to make them happy. Feminism would teach her that, as a woman, she has innate worth and inalienable rights and she can use her talents to help other learners who are struggling with their schoolwork. By using this strategy she could create support from other learners against the bullies or she may even win the bullies over. (What else can you think of?)

Conclusion- Summarise your ideas in the previous section and look at the advantages and disadvantages of using critical theory and feminism to solve Tshedi's problem.

Question 2		
21	What is meant by "politics of gender"?	(2)
22	Which three issues do all forms of feminism focus on?	(3)
23	Explain how black women's studies interpret feminism	(4)
2 4	What is African feminism also called?	(1)

#### **STUDENT ANSWER**

# 2.1 WHAT IS MEANT BY "POLITICS OF GENDER"? (2)

ANSWER: The power relations between men and women which are structured around opposing notions of masculinity and femininity.

# 2.2 WHICH 3 ISSUES DO ALL FORMS OF FEMINISM FOCUS ON? (3)

ANSWER: Sexual stereotyping, creating a bigger place for women in the world, rejecting the view that women are inferior to men.

# 2.3 EXPLAIN HOW BLACK WOMEN'S STUDIES INTERPRET FEMINISM. (4)

ANSWER: As a western cultural phenomenon under whose influence local women's movements have challenged gender dimensions of customary laws in arguing for social change.

### 2.4 WHAT IS AFRICAN FEMINISM ALSO CALLED? (1)

ANSWER: The sisterhood of Africa.

#### **QUESTION 2**

- 2.1 Discuss four ways in which black women's studies interpret African Feminism
- (4)

22 Name four proponents of black women's studies in Africa

- (2)
- 2 3 Give two methods of enquiry in philosophy with which feminism has links and explain why there is a link

(4)

#### (10)

### **STUDENT NOTES**

# DISCUSS THE 4 WAYS IN WHICH BLACK WOMEN STUDIES INTERPRET

#### **AFRICAN FEMINISM (4)**

Black women studies that have in Africa, as a method of inquiry:

- Has interpretated feminism as a Western culturual phenomenon.
- Under such influence, the local womens movements have challenged gender dimensions of customary laws that argue for social change.
- Due to this form of colonisation, Women within the womens movement came up with a plan of action! To argue for the power of the sisterhood by recognising and respecting all views and opinions that make up feminism in Africa.
- With great help from the postcolonial theory, issues have been explored such as the exploration of the other and unique perspectives and experiences of colonised race and cultures.

# 2.2 NAME 4 PROPONENTS OF BLACK WOMEN STUDIES IN AFRICA (2)

- F Florence Abena (Flowers)
- L Lindiwe Zulu (Lindt chocolate)
- A Amina Mama (Amandla!)
- M Maria Nzomo (Marie Biscuits)

# 2.3 GIVE 2 METHODS OF ENQUIRY IN PHILOSOPHY WITH WHICH FEMINISM HAS LINKS AND EXPLAIN WHY THERE IS A LINK (4)

- Critical rationalism Because it questions the status quo.
- Critical theory Because it radically challenges the status quo.

# WHAT IS AFRICAN FEMINISM ALSO KNOWN AS (2)

#### The sisterhood of Africa

# **AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY**

There is a learner in your **class** (ECD, Intermediate and Senior Phase, FET and Senior Phase) or **community** (only General Education) who is an Aids orphan – both her parents died of HIV/Aids complications. Mary has a brother and a sister younger than her and she has to take care of them. They struggle to survive on their own. They often go to bed hungry. Mary tries her best, but she is too young for this big responsibility. She does not have a proper school uniform. Her siblings also do not have proper clothing. She has to do the domestic chores, because her siblings are still very small. She is often tired and her homework is not done. She might not pass at the end of the year if she does not get help. How can you use your knowledge of African philosophy to solve the problem?

#### 1. Introduction

Briefly motivate your use of African philosophy to solve the above mentioned problem

(5

#### 2. Content

Discuss African philosophy in general and indicate how you will use specific ideas from the philosophy to solve the problem

(15

#### 3. Conclusion

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of African philosophy when applying it to the problem

(5 1**25** 

## **STUDENT NOTES**

"There is a learner in your class who is an Aids orphan – both her parents died of HIV/Aids complications. Mary has a brother and a sister younger than her and she has to take care of them. They struggle to survive on their own. They often go to bed hungry. Mary tries her best, but she is too young for this big responsibility. She does not have a proper school uniform. Her siblings also do not have proper clothing. She has to do the domestic chores, because her siblings are still very small. She is often tired and homework is not done. She might not pass at the end of the year if she does not get help."

How can you use your knowledge of African philosophy to solve the problem?

> Introduction: Briefly motivate your use of African philosophy to solve the above mentioned problem (5)

- > Body: Discuss African philosophy in general and indicate how you will use specific ideas from the philosophy to solve the problem. (20)
- > Conclusion: Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of the African philosophy when applying it to the problem. (5)

#### ■ INTRODUCTION

Mary is a young orphan that is struggling to juggle school and family responsibilities. Her homework is not done, struggles academically, she is tired, takes care of her siblings, have no proper clothing and often go to bed hungry.

I would use the various African philosophies Ubuntuism, Pure philosophy and Sage Wisdom philosophy because they all hold specific ideas that cater in solving the above mentioned problem on a emotional and physical level. Furthermore, they are all steps in developing a positive mindset.

# BODY

> Ubuntuism is an African belief that I could bring into the classroom as a means to provide emotional support, love and spiritual guidance in the life of the child. Mary is struggling and dealing with a lot of pressure, imagine what its like loosing parents. Ubuntu means humanity. Therefore, happiness and well being. The Nguni expression explains further, co-existing because of another due to forming relationships with other people.

Therefore, forming a bond with the child is a step towards gaining her trust and which leads to communication. I would be patient, understanding as well as listen attentively

when giving her that extra attention where need be. Therefore, just to acknowledge the child and show an interest. As a result, this leads to her developing a positive mindset in her coping with everything.

- > Pure Philosophy is an african philosophy where I would use the idea of learning from ones experience. As a teacher I can use my own experience as a means to guide me in how I can approach the childs situation. I would provide physical support, "would anyone like to donate any clothing or food?".
- > As a teacher for providing emotional support, I could remember an idea found in pure philosophy which revolves around one seeking meaning or purpose in life as honestly as possible when surrounded with the troubles that people face today as well as to coexist while feeling free to express themselves (Existensialism).

Mary is struggling to take care of her self and her siblings, "struggle to survive... siblings do not have proper clothing... homework is not done".

I would provide opportunities where she is able to express herself freely and openely -Speak to the parents in putting her through to a Child Psychologist, free services offered by the school.

This process will help her focus on her studies.

> Furthermore, another idea that I could use is Sage Wisdom Philosophy as a means to discuss the best emotional or physical support needed for the young child. The idea that I would use in this philosophy is to be wise, to think critically and challenge the communities thoughts. As a teacher, I would involve the community. I would schedule meetings and therefore, create a support group with fellow colleagues, parents and relevant family members on discussing matters relating to the young childs troubles and how we can help Mary. We would use prior knowledge, exchange ideas and question each others thoughts process as a means to make the best possible decision

or choice of action pertaining to the childs situation.

Example of plan of action: Get in touch with child services and possibly looking for a home that caters for orphans. Her siblings will be looked after, they will be fed and Mary will be able to complete her homework. I could offer free lessons to help her cope academically at school and possibly find sponsors who can contribute to clothing and food. I would play my part by encouraging her to play with the other learners by letting them work in groups for the mere purpose it will boost her self esteem and self confidence.

Furthermore, by helping Mary solve her external problems, we are helping her feel a sense of relief of emotional stress.

# **■ CONCLUSION**

Therefore, African philosophy helps build communities more so than the individual which still however, supports the community in discussing solutions to the problem with parents, teachers and other family members, developing a positive mindset. It encourages human beings to become humble by offering free services, child psychologist and extra lessons. By Mary being able to express herself to the child psychologist, she is not only able to gain a deeper understanding of oneself but be encouraged to appreciate the unknown, see life as an adventure. Furthermore, appreciating tradition such as Ubuntism helps to guide the learner on a spiritual level and show ways in coping with change.

1 3 What kind of questions does African philosophy ask when trying to find the truth?

### WHAT KIND OF QUESTION DOES AFRICAN PHILOSPHY ASK?

- ♦ ·How should we understand the universe?
- ♦ ·Who and what is God?
- Who is my neighbour?
- What is my duty to my
- community?

(5)

- ◆ ·How should my community be
- governed and led?

### **STUDENT NOTES**

# 4.1 DISCUSS ANY 3 FORMS OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL COMMUNALISM DEVELOPED IN THE ERA OF POST-COLONIALISM. (6)

Answer: (see 'African Philosophy'- RW) Julius Nyerere's idea of ujamaa; Kenneth Kaunda's ideas of Zambian humanism; Kwame Nkrumah and Sekou Toure's scientific socialism, etc.

# 4.2 WHAT ARE THE 4 ADVANTAGES OF ESPOUSING AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY? (4)

Answer: African philosophy puts the community at the centre of life unlike Western thought which puts the individual at the centre.

African philosophy rejects capitalism and prefers socialism to counter the West's destruction of Africa.

African philosophy is a response to the troubles and problems of Africa and to the domination of Western thought.

'Ubuntu' which is the central idea in African philosophy and translates into humanity and espouses values such as caring, sharing, forgiveness and reconciliation, is a single gift that African philosophy can bequeath to the other philosophies of the world.

### 2.2. DISCUSS 5 MAIN IDEAS OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY.

Answer: a. African philosophy places the needs of the community first.

- b. It rejects capitalism and prefers various forms of socialism.
- c. It is keen to prove Africans can develop their own scientific and rational culture.

- d. The central idea in African philosophy is Ubuntu- the concept of caring and sharing, of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- e. Culture and tradition play an important role.

John, a learner in your class is being bullied by older learners. He is a very conscientious child who does his homework regularly and well. He is, however, of slender build and not very strong. The physically bigger and stronger children in his peer group force him to either do their homework for them or they copy his homework. John comes from a financially struggling single parent home. He brings food to school every day, but has no money to spend at the tuck shop. The bullies take his food and throw it away or eat it themselves. John spends the school breaks in the classroom to prevent the bullies from targeting him, he thus has very few friends. He cannot attend after school activities and make friends there, because he has to go directly home to do certain chores. There is also no money for sport equipment. How can you solve the problem by using your knowledge of African Philosophy or Critical Theory (choose ONE framework).

Your answer should include the following headings

#### 1. Introduction:

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Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of African philosophy or Critical Theory ir solving it

#### 2. Content:

Discuss African philosophy or Critical Theory briefly and show how you can use it to solve you problem

#### 3. Conclusion:

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of Africar philosophy or Critical Theory in solving the problem

#### STUDENT NOTES

# **DISCUSS 5 MAIN IDEAS OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY. (10)**

### Ethnic philosophy

The Africans religious and moral beliefs as well as having the strength and ability to criticise their own traditions. Therefore, this philosophy refers to their desire to show civil rational thought, its their strength, where they show they have power.

# Sage Wisdom Philosophy

The people who are wise, think critically and feel free to challenge the communities decisions with their own thoughts.

# Pure Philosophy

To respect laws and regulations. To learn from ones experience. To critically evaluate what and what not to believe. To seek meaning or purpose in life as honestly as possible in the troubles that they face today. To co-exist while feeling free to express themselves.

# Political Philosophy

These ideas are based on the government, how they can limit power. To maintain survival and enhance quality of human life while being faithful to their own personal beliefs.

### • Ubuntu

Ubuntu is a nice way to remind learners of the importance of developing a positive mindset and how to form good relationships with one another. Therefore, the idea of Ubuntu would be nice to encourage in the classroom because by building relationships in social groups, they form friendships and with that learn basic values such as love and forgiveness which all are factors in ones happiness and with that develop social skills in co-existing with one another.

#### Question 1

John is often bullied at school Give an indication of how you would explain the principle of 'ubuntu' in African philosophy to the learners in your class to alleviate the bullying (4)

# HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE PRINCIPLE OF UBUNTU IN AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY TO THE LEARNERS IN YOUR CLASS TO ALLEVIATE BULLYING? [4]

- Start by defining: A human being is a human being through other human beings.
- Recognise that the human self exists and develops only in relationships with other people.
- Examples of Ubuntu: caring and sharing, forgiveness and reconciliation
- People with value of Ubuntu are non-violent but they are tolerant and accommodating
- They commit themselves to peaceful co-existence inspite of their differences
- ← People with values of Ubuntu do not have feelings of revenge, but desire justice, peace and harmonious co-existence.

#### Question 4

- Discuss any three forms of social and political communalism developed in the era of postcolonialism. (6)
- 4 2 What are the four advantages of espousing African philosophy? (4)

\_\_\_

# 4.1 THREE FORMS OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL COMMUNALISM DEVELOPED IN THE ERA OF POST-COLONIALISM

- Julius Nyerere of Tanzania put forward the philosophy of ujamaa.
- Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia's ideas of Zambian humanism.
- \* Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Sekou Toure of Guinea put forward the idea of scientific socialism.
- Leopold Senghor of Senegal put forward the idea of Negritude
- Steve Biko of South Africa put forward the philosophy of Black Consciousness.

# 3 5 Three advantages of using African philosophy

[1:

# 4.2 FOUR ADVANTAGES OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

- The lps to bring peace, love and harmony, hence, it is seen as a philosophy which builds communities.
- The lt encourages human beings to be more humble and tolerant.
- The lt helps people to understand their personalities and of the people around them.
- The lps us to appreciate or understand the mystery or abstract concepts in African religion.
- The lt re-examine the need and importance of African tradition, beliefs and ethos in solving societal challenges.

In a nutshell, linguistic and analysis help human beings to think more clearly and be precise in what they say or utter. In addition, this method of enquiry identify or pick out hidden meanings or inferences in arguments. By and large, this method helps people, to be more conscious of manipulation in all forms of propaganda, including the mass media and political rhetoric.

# **SECTION C. ESSAY QUESTION**

Twelve-year old Thabo's parents have just moved to a suburban area and he is enrolled in the loc semi-private primary school in the middle of the year. The children in his class are reluctant embrace him into their circles of friends. The situation has left Thabo isolated, lonely, miserable ar angry that his parents uprooted him from the township where he had friends and life was good. Some

of the children in his class merely ignore him, but a few try to understand where he came from and what his cultural beliefs were. The class teacher is worried about him and decides to try and solve the problem.

How do you think, as the teacher, you could solve the problem in the scenario above by relying on your knowledge of **African philosophy**?

Your answer should include the following headings

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of African philosophy in solving it

#### 2. CONTENT:

Discuss African philosophy briefly and show how you can use it to solve the problem

#### 3. CONCLUSION.

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of African philosophy in solving the problem [30]

ΤΩΤΔΙ • [100]

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

"12 year old Thabos parents just moved to a suburbian area and he is enrolled in the local semi-private primary school in the middle of the year. The children in his class are reluctant to embrace him into their circle of friends. The situation has left Thabo isolated, lonely, miserable and angry that his parents uprooted him from the township where he had friends and life was good. Some of the children in his class merely ignore him, but a few try to understand where he came from and what his cultural beliefs were. The class teacher is worried about him and decides to try and solve the problem."

How do you think as a teacher, you could solve the problem in this scenario above by relying on your knowledge of African philosophy?

> Introduction : Briefly motivate your use of African philosophy to solve the above mentioned problem (5)

- > Body: Discuss African philosophy in general and indicate how you will use specific ideas from the philosophy to solve the problem. (20)
- > Conclusion: Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of the African philosophy when applying it to the problem. (5)

# ■ INTRODUCTION

Thabo is a boy who probably speaks strongly in his monther tongue being that he is 12 years old and just moved to a suburbian area. The learners are not welcoming as well as do not take an interest in getting to know him, where he came from and his beliefs. Therefore, he struggles to make friends. He feels isolated, lonely and miserable and blames his parents.

I would use the various African philosophies such as Ubuntuism, Pure philosophy, Sage

Wisdom philosophy and political philosophy because they all hold a specific idea that helps me in solving the above mentioned problem by providing that emotional and physical support. Furthermore, they are all steps in developing a positive mindset and forming good relationships.

### **■ BODY**

> Thabo is depressed 'lonely, miserable' and expresses a negative attitude 'angry at parents' which leads to developing a negative mindset. UBUNTUISM is an African belief that I could bring into the classroom as a means to provide that emotional support and spiritual guidance in Thabo'slife.

Ubuntu means humanity. Therefore, happiness and well being. The Nguni expression explains further, co-existing because of another due to forming relationships with other

people. Therefore, forming a bond with the child is a step towards gaining his trust and which leads to helping him feel more comfortable in being able to communicate with the teacher. I would be patient, understanding as well as listen attentively when giving him that extra attention where need be. Therefore, just to acknowledge the child and show an interest ie encourage the learners to play with Thabo. As a result, this leads to him developing a positive mindset in helping him cope with change.

> I would consider the idea of equality and faithfulness to ones own personal beliefs in POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY and learning from ones experience in PURE PHILOSOPHY.

Therefore, based on previous experiences, I would think a good solution to the problem is to explain to the learners on what it means to be apart of a rainbow nation (equality and being faithful to ones belief). The rainbow nation symbolises a diverse group of people that come together to celebrate and respect a multicultural heritage. I would like to add for when one introduces the rainbow nation I could bring in SAGE WISDOM PHILOSOPHY here which relates to involving the community and ask all parents to come in and share their knowledge on their beliefs. Therefore, this not only leads to appreciating all religions but Thabo appreciating his parents as well.

Furthermore, I could do me justice to remember my past experiences in bringing in the National Policy of Religion and Education into the classroom because it helps in removing prejudice as well as encourages learners to associate with other students. In relation, I could encourage the learners to participate in educational activities that encourage multicultural education since it has worked in the past.

> Furthermore, another idea that I could use is from SAGE WISDOM PHILOSOPHY.

The idea that I would use in Sage Wisdom philosophy is to be wise, to think critically and challenge the communities thoughts. Therefore, to involve the community.

As a teacher, I would involve the community. I would schedule meetings and therefore, create a support group with fellow colleagues, parents and relevant family members on

discussing matters relating to the young childs troubles and how we can help Thabo. We would use prior knowledge, exchange ideas and question each others thoughts process as a means to make the best possible decision or choice of action pertaining to the childs situation.

Example of plan of action: As a teacher, I can create a safe and happy environment by not only letting them work in groups but as a whole class.

Furthermore, I could discuss the free services that the school has to offer with the parents, child psychologist. By Thabo being able to express himself to the child psychologist, he is not only able to gain a deeper understanding of oneself and his situation but it will help him to appreciate the unknown, his parents and see life as an adventure. Furthermore, appreciating tradition such as Ubuntism helps to guide the learner on a spiritual level and show ways in coping with change.

## **■ CONCLUSION**

Therefore, African philosophy helps build communities more so than the individual which still however, nethertheless, supports the learner in discussing solutions to the problem with parents, teachers and other family members, developing a positive mindset. Encourages human beings to become humble by the teacher teaching what it means to be apart of a rainbow nation (equality/proud of ones beliefs) and therefore, encouraging learners to play with one another and participate in educational activities that encourage multicultural education as well as by offering free services such as seeing a child psychologist. By Thabo being able to express himself to the child psychologist, he is not only able to gain a deeper understanding of oneself and his situation but be encouraged to appreciate the unknown, see life as an adventure. Furthermore, appreciating tradition such as Ubuntism helps to guide the learner on a spiritual level and show ways in coping with change.

#### **ANSWER 2**

**TUTORIAL 201 2012 SEMSTER 1 & 2** 

### **Question 1**

How would you use your knowledge of African philosophy to help you as a class leader/teacher to solve the problem of a learner who has come from another province and has no friends in the school?

# **EXAMPLE: AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY**

# **INTRODUCTION**

Two weeks ago I realised that one of my learners had a problem socialising with the rest of the learners in the class. After monitoring him closely, I realised that this problem was not only limited to the classroom but that he preferred to sit alone in the classroom during breaks. This prompted me to find out what was brothering him. He was new in the school and did not have any friends.

African philosophy can be used in this case to make the other learners aware that it is important or human beings to interact with each other. It is not very brotherly/sisterly to ignore a person without friends.

The community is very important in African Philosophy and the children should try to involve the new learner in a group where he could feel welcome and cared for.

### CONTENT

African philosophy has its roots in the spoken tradition and emphasises the importance

of the community rather than the individual. African philosophy is a response to the troubles and problems of Africa. It is a rejection of Western domination and colonisation of Africa. African thinkers seek to disprove the claim that Africans cannot develop rational and scientific thought.

African philosophy is so appealing that even the West is borrowing from it. The New Age Movement, for example, owes a great deal to African thought. Briefly discuss the methods of enquiry in African philosophy.

African philosophy asks questions like: Who is my neighbour? and What is my duty to my community? These questions are very imporant because they are meant to instil a sense of community and humanity in people. We have to treat everyone as we would want to be treated. This encompasses the principle of ubuntu, which is central to African philosophy. Discuss the ubuntu principle in detail.

The learners who are ignoring the new learner in school would be made aware of the following important principles of African philosophy:

- People have to treat one another with the necessary humaneness and dignity.
- We are supposed to take care of each other and to guide each other with care and understanding.
- Human beings should be humble.
- Peace and humaneness are important concepts.
- It is much better to receive a gift from a voluntary giver than to force someone into giving.
- The children should learn about brotherly/sisterly love and communalism.
- The new child should be invited into a group or into the class communalism.

  Ubuntu plays a very important part in African philosophy. The world would be a better place if everybody was aware of and practised the principles of ubuntu.

## CONCLUSION

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Write your own conclusion by adding any advantages and/or disadvantages.

NB: This is only a guideline and not a complete essay. You should add more details to the points that are provided. Also, do not forget to provide a bibliography at the end of your essay as proof that you have done the required research.

### **QUESTION 4**

Which theoretical framework would best analyse the following question and why? "What does the word 'dog' mean?"

(4)

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

# WHICH THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK WOULD BEST ANALYSE THE QUESTION AND WHY?

WHAT DOES THE WORD 'DOG' MEAN?

Linguistic Analysis – concerned with the question: What is the meaning of this word or sentence. More precisely: what is the meaning of these symbols?

#### **Essay type question**

Twelve-year old Sonwabo's parents have just moved to a suburban area and he is enrolled in the local semi-private primary school in the middle of the year. The children in his class are reluctant to embrace him into their circles of friends. The situation has left Sonwabo isolated, lonely, miserable and angry that his parents uprooted him from the township where he had friends and life was good. Some of the children in his class merely ignore him, but a few try to understand where he came from and what his cultural beliefs were. The class teacher is worried about him and decides to try and solve the problem.

How do you think the teacher could solve this problem by relying on your knowledge of **African** philosophy

Your answer should include the following headings

### 1. Introduction:

Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of African philosophy in solving it

#### 2. Content:

Discuss African philosophy briefly and show how you can use it to solve your problem

#### 3. Conclusion:

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of African philosophy in solving the problem

Thandi's parents died. She had to move to the city from the small settlement she called home for 12 years and is now staying with her aunt in the city. She now has to attend a multiracial, multilingual school. At her previous school all learners were. Tswana speaking and she struggles to adapt. Her aunt is very strict and she is not allowed to stay after school for extra lessons or to take part in extra mural activities. She therefore struggles to make friends and to catch up with her school work. You are her class teacher. By using African philosophy, how will you assist her?

Your answer should include the following headings:

# 1. Introduction

Briefly describe the problem and motivate your use of African philosophy in solving it

#### 2. Content

Discuss African philosophy briefly and show how you can use it to solve your problem.

### 3. Conclusion

Draw your own conclusion by referring to the advantages and disadvantages of African philosophy.

#### Question 2

Mention and explain the methods of enquiry employed by African philosophy Give FOUR proponent of African philosophy (12)

# MENTION AND EXPLAIN THE METHODS OF ENQUIRY EMPLOYED BY AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY. [12]

# Methods of enquiry employed

- Ethnic philosophy- the philosophy which contains people's view of life and African ability to criticise its traditions. Consists of the religious and moral beliefs of the African continent. Looks at the wholeness of human beings
- Sage/Wisdom philosophy- focuses on the people who have wisdom and intelligence in the society. These people think critically and their views challenge the authority of the community's decision. (Critical rationalism and critical theory). These philosophers

are social critics and innovators.

- Political philosophy- This method of enquiry is concerned with a unique form of governance and political systems which are specially designed for the African administrators or leadership. This purely patriarchal in nature,

# PROPONENTS OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY [4]

- Kwame Anthony Approub
- Peter Budonrin
- Amilcar Cabral
- Frantz Fanon
- John Mbiti
- Kwame Gyekye
- Paul Hountondji
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o
- Henry Odera Oruka
- Leopold Senghon
- Tsenay Serequeberhan
- Kwasi Wiredu

#### Respond in essay format to the following statement.

"The main thing to remember about African philosophy is that it is a response to the problems and troubles of Africa and to the domination of Western thought."

Make use of the following guidelines in your response

- Refer to the different methods of enquiry in African philosophy
- Refer to the concept of "Ubuntu"
- Refer to what African philosophy can do
- Refer to what African philosophy cannot help us with

Your answer should not exceed three (3) pages

[30]

#### **AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY ESSAY**

- 2. Motivate use of framework to solve problem.
- 2. General and specific ideas:

African philosophy – It is a response to the problems and troubles of Africa and a response to the domination of Western thought.

- \_ Philosophy in Africa emerges as part of the anti-colonial struggle and the challenges of post-colonial reconstruction.
- \_ Western thought puts the individual at the centre of life, while African thought puts the community at the centre

Ubuntu (humanity) – is related to human happiness and well-being.

\_ Ubuntu recognizes that the human self only exists and develops in relationships with other persons

NB Advantages / Disadvantages

What can African Philosophy do:

- 1. Build communities
- 2. Encourage human beings to be more humble
- 3. Give us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- 4. Help us appreciate mystery
- 5. Re-examine the need for tradition in human life
- What can't African Philosophy help us to do:
- 1. It does not challenge power structure
- 2. To date, it seems to be unable to accept woman as men's equals
- 3. It does not encourage critical thinking
- 4. It tends to ignore the needs of the individual person
- 5. It tolerates cruel superstitious practices

#### **ANSWER 2**

African philosophy is an indigenous knowledge system which portrays the African way of viewing life as well as the best way of living on mother earth. In a nutshell, the main purpose of African philosophy is to respond to the problems and challenges faced by Africans in an African way. By and large, African philosophers seek to reverse the subjection, dominance and hegemony of Western philosophy in Africa.

African philosophers also enthusiastically desire to disapprove the Western belief that Africans are unable to develop a scientific and rational or logical culture. These philosophers confront the question: What does it mean to say, "I am African?" In a bid to popularise African philosophy African thinkers find expression in the spoken or oral tradition. These philosophers derive much of their philosophy from African proverbs, idioms, folklores and traditions. In its form and structure, African philosophy consists of four methods of enquiry such as ethnic philosophy, sage or wisdom philosophy, political philosophy and pure philosophy.

Ethnic philosophy consists of African religious and moral beliefs prevalent in the African continent. This method of enquiry comprises of people's view of life and Africa's ability to criticise its own traditions. More importantly, this philosophy looks at the whole experience of human beings, hence, it is considered to be holistic and inclusive.

Sage or wisdom philosophy is the product of wise and far-sighted individuals in African communities. These individuals are greater thinkers who can think critically and logically. Wisdom philosophers are critical thinkers as well as critical rationalists. They put across views which challenge community leadership's authority, decisions and leadership style. These philosophers are basically, social critics and innovators who drive the change and transformation agenda in their communities.

On the other hand, Africa has a unique and distinct political philosophy. This philosophy accepts the status quo. The philosophers do not challenge power structures, hence such a philosophy do not encourage critical thinking. Patriachialism and dominance of male lineages which exclude women in the political affairs of African communities illustrates how African politics uphold male dominance and exclusion of women in the public spheres. This philosophy is different from capitalist, socialist or communist political philosophies which emerged from the Western and Eastern parts of the world. Julius Nyerere's philosophy of Ujamaa practised in Tanzania is a good example of African political philosophy.

Furthermore, African philosophers also engage in pure philosophy which is related to Western methods of enquiry. African philosophers engage in empiricism, critical rationalism and existentialism.

The central idea in African philosophy is ubuntuism. Ubuntuism addresses the question of what really is a human being in an African context. The main proposition of the philosophy of Ubuntu is that a human being is a human being through other human beings. Through this philosophy, Africans are encouraged to be friendlier, tolerant accommodating and cooperative in their day to day life. Ubuntu recognises that a

human being self exists and only develop only in a relationship with other people around him or her. Personality traits such as caring, sharing, forgiveness and reconciliation are some of the major examples which are overt in the practice of ubuntuism.

African philosophy in general and the philosophy of Ubuntu in particular have several advantages as they help to bring peace, love, harmony and tranquillity in African communities. African communities realise stability and progress through the spirit of cooperation advocated by African philosophy. Positive characters and personalities will be moulded since African philosophy encourages people to be more humble, down-toearth and considerate of other people's plight. In the process people understand their inner-self and purpose of existence. More importantly, Africans would value and appreciate their culture, norms, values, beliefs and traditions. In other words the use of indigenous solutions is emphasised at the expense of borrowed Western philosophies. Nevertheless, African philosophy has a plethora of disadvantages or failures. The fact that it does not challenge power structures makes it less appealing. In a nutshell, the philosophy advocates for authoritarianism or dictatorship at the expense of more liberal philosophy of democracy. Furthermore, African promotes hegemony and subjection of certain groups of people since it does not encourage critical rationalism or thinking. By and large, the needs of the individual person are ignored by over emphasising communalism and cooperation at the expense of an individual's needs. This philosophy does not help humanity in some instances since it tolerates barbaric and cruel superstitious practices such burning of witches.

To sum it all, it is crucial to note that African philosophy is a form of existentialism which humanity cannot ignore. Human beings are made rational and civilised through the ubuntuism which has been popularised by African philosophy. Throughout this essay the writer postulated that African philosophy has four distinct methods of enquiry. In a nutshell, African philosophy has both advantages and weaknesses but more importantly the positive aspects of this philosophy bring substantial harmony in our communities.

#### **ANSWER 3**

### **ESSAY: AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY:**

- 1. Describe problem and motivate use of framework to solve it.
- → Discussion:

African philosophy – It is a response to the problems and troubles of Africa and a response to the domination of Western thought.

- \_ Philosophy in Africa emerges as part of the anti-colonial struggle and the challenges of post-colonial reconstruction.
- \_ Western thought puts the individual at the centre of life, while African thought puts the community at the centre

Ubuntu (humanity) – is related to human happiness and well-being.

\_ Ubuntu recognizes that the human self only exists and develops in relationships with other persons.

#### Advantages:

#### What can African Philosophy do:

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- 3. Give us a deeper understanding of ourselves
- 4. Help us appreciate mystery
- 5. Re-examine the need for tradition in human life

#### Disadvantages:

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#### **ANSWER 4**

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African philosophy has a plethora of disadvantages or failures. The fact that it does not challenge power structures makes it less appealing. In a nutshell, the philosophy advocates for authoritarianism or dictatorship at the expense of more liberal philosophy of democracy. Furthermore, African promotes hegemony and subjection of certain groups of people since it does not encourage critical rationalism or thinking. By and large, the needs of the individual person are ignored by over emphasising communalism and cooperation at the expense of an individual's needs. This philosophy does not help humanity in some instances since it tolerates barbaric and cruel superstitious practices such burning of witches.

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 $\Gamma \cap \Gamma \cap$ 

	EDC1015 EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 2018) Jules Khomo	
	MIXED QUESTIONS	
Ques	tion 3	,
Write	short notes on the following	
3 1	Linguistic analysis	(3)
32	Logical symbolism	(3)
33	Empiricism	(4)

#### WRITE SHORT NOTES

#### 3.1 Linguistic analysis

This is a method of enquiry in philosophy which concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words or sentences. This method of enquiry claims that if people fail to solve a problem they would be dealing with a false problem or a meaningless set of words. By and large, this philosophy is concerned with the question: "What is the meaning of this word or sentence?"

- **3.2 Logical symbolism is** the philosophical movement which focused on linguistic analysis as well as on logic in order to expose truth and decide if an argument is valid.
- **3.3 Empiricism** is the method of enquiry in philosophy that argues that experience gained through the five senses gives us the most reliable form of information. This philosophy claims that all true knowledge is based on what we can experience for ourselves. Over and above all, empiricism is concerned with establishing the truth by means of scientific testing. Empiricism tests or checks to see whether what is claimed to be true is confirmed by the way we experience the world through our senses. Key question asked by empiricists is: "How do I know if something is true?"

#### **ANSWER 2**

# Linguistic analysis

This is a method of enquiry in philosophy that concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words and sentences.

Ludwing Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell and AJ Ayer are the key proponents of this method of enquiry.

Linguistic analysis claims that all problems human beings encounter can be solved if the meaning of words, symbols and sentences is understood. Therefore, people cannot solve their problems if they are dealing with a false problem or a meaningless set of words. Therefore, linguistic analysis is a method of arriving at truth.

In their enquiry linguistic analysis philosophers focused on three things: logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts. They tried to put forward an explanation which postulate how and why human beings know that a statement is true, false or meaningless. More importantly, they closely analysed how language worked and establish what a fact is

QUESTION 1				
11	What is the most famous version of Critical Theory?	(2)		
12	What distinguishes Western thought from African thought?	(2)		
13	What is the meaning of the concept "ubuntu"?	(2)		
1 4	Which theory does Bertalanffy support?	(2)		
15	"Who in the world am I?" Which philosophy asks this question?	(2)		
16	Mention the three categories of phenomenology	(3)		
17	What is another name for logical empiricism?	(2) [ <b>15</b> ]		

#### **QUESTION 1**

- 1.1 Marxism is the most famous version of critical theory (pp.74).
- 1.2 African philosophy builds communities through ubuntuism while Western philosophy values materialism and individualism (pp.57).
- 1.3 Ubuntu means a human being is a human being through other human beings (pp.57).
- 1.4 Systems theory.
- 1.5 Phenomenology.
- 1.6 Three categories of phenomenology:
- Phenomenology of the self (Who am I?)
- Social phenomenology (who and what is my community?)
- Cosmic phenomenology (our place in the universe) (pp.99).
- 1.7 Logical empiricism is also known as logical empiricism (pp.22).
- 3 4 Who is the most popular supporter of linguistic analysis?

(† [18

#### **MOST POPULAR SUPPORTER OF LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**

Bertrand Russell & AJ Ayer – British philosophers

#### **QUESTION 1**

- 1 1 What is African feminism also known as? (2)
- 1 2 What is the aim of logic in philosophy? (2)
- 13 List two main ideas that are propagated by hermeneutics (4)
- 1.4 Name two ways in which postmodernism can help us (2)

[10]

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### WHAT IS AFRICAN FEMINISM ALSO KNOWN AS (2)

• The sisterhood of Africa

#### 1.2 WHAT IS THE AIM OF LOGIC IN PHILOSOPHY? (2)

- To arrive at the basic structure of truth.
- A process based on representing objects and relationships symbolically. Therefore, to use symbolic expression.

### 1.3 List 2 main ideas that are propagated by hermeneutics. (4)

- The individuals life experiences are influenced by the way in which one understands the world. Listening and observing is important in this aspect.
- It is anti-authoritarian which means to go against authority. Therefore, it encourages the individual to rather create his or her own meaning and level of understanding.

#### 1.4 Name 2 ways in which postmodernism can help us. (2)

- Resist the pressure to turn into workaholics.
- Question the claims of rigid morality.

	EDC1015 EXAM PREP (Semester 2: 20 <sup>o</sup>	18) Jules Khomo	
Write short notes on the following ideas of African philosophy:			
3 1	Ubuntu	(4)	
32	Communalism	(4)	
3 3	Ethnic philosophy	(2)	
3 4	Sage philosophy	(2)	

#### **STUDENT NOTES**

#### 3.1 **UBUNTU** (4)

- Ubuntu in english means Humanity, happiness and well being.
- The Nguni expression explains further, co-existing because of another due to forming relationships with other people.
- To peacefully co-exist amongst South Africans despite peoples differences.
- Ubuntu can be brought into the classroom The teacher can provide many opportunities that allow learners to work (groups) and play with one another, this leads to building relationships, friendships. Through building positive relationships, one can learn basic values such as love and forgiveness which all are factors in finding happiness.

#### 3.2 COMMUNALISM (4)

- In African philosophy, the community comes first, higher than the individual. A person is born out and then into the community.
- Communalism refers to the community. It stresses the importance of needing others for support.
- As a community, they discuss and make a decision which is followed by an action or a mutual understanding. However, when in a meeting where decisions are taken by the

community, all need to participate and speak.

• Therefore, a community that implies a culture of mutual helpfulness, sharing and caring for one another. Therefore, the community supports ubuntuism.

# 3.3 ETHNIC PHILOSOPHY (2)

- Its based on the Africans religious and moral beliefs. Therefore, their view of life.
- However, they have the strength and ability to criticise their own traditions.

Therefore, this shows civil rational thought which highlights their strength and power.

# 3.4 SAGE PHILOSOPHY (2)

- The people who are far-sighted, wise and can think critically.
- Feel free to challenge the communities decisions with their own thoughts.

#### 3.5 THREE ADVANTAGES OF USING AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY (3)

- Helps us build the community.
- Encourage people to be humble.
- Gain a deeper understanding of ourselves.

PARAGRAPH TYPE QUESTIONS		
Write short notes on the following theoretical frameworks		
1	Critical Rationalism	(10)
2	Critical Theory	(10)
3	Post Modernism	(10)
4	Phenomenology	(10) (40)

STUDENT ANSWERS
WRITE SHORT NOTES

#### **CRITICAL RATIONALISM**

Started with Socrates. He was killed when he questioned religious practices of today. He challenged others to challenge existing ideas and question them, which is critical rationalism but also to critically evaluate ones own idea as well.

- Therefore, encourages individualism and freedom of expression but to be objective.
- One has the power of thought and can be easily abused and thats why critical rationalism is needed, to critically evaluate ones own ideas as well as others as a means to seek for true understanding/truth.
- Involves exchanging ideas and being open-minded
- Involves people expressing themselves openly without getting personal, therefore, based on facts
- Critical rationalism means to critically evaluate an idea but to look out for hidden assumptions
- To listen to others attentively, this is part of being open minded and respectful.
- Involves asking open ended questions that help in seeking the truth or the best outcome
- Involves critically evaluating ideas and avoiding false arguments.
- An example of critical rationalism in the classroom would be holding a debate on a topic where learners collaborate in groups in exchanging ideas such as
- "Learner A: How can we feel safe if murders are walking around freely? Learner B: They can be put behind bars?"
- Therefore, to challenge what they think while being tolerant and understanding.

#### **CRITICAL THEORY (10)\***

- Critical theory origins from German philosophy in the 1930's.
- People have been hurt by either the social (Community), economic (Banks) or political system (Law, police station), people in power. Critical theory requires a change of thought, evolving the system.
- Therefore, this concerns changing the system!
- This is accomplished in the method of inquiry, asking a variety of questions that cover the best solution to solving the problem.
- Furthermore, the critical theory has influenced 3 philosophers; Paulo F, Peter M and Michael A.
- The famous version of critical theory is Marxism which means to abolish all social and wealth inequalities. Therefore, the whole point of following the critical theory is to create a positive mindset that lessens the chance of people dominating others.
- Buddhists beliefs supports the critical theory when they believe in the eightfold path, some examples are to respect life, know the truth, be in control of ones own thoughts and feelings and resist evil. Therefore, Buddha goes against violence or unjust social orders. Buddha represents the power of ones mind which is needed in order to change the system.
- Critical theory involves acknowledging how we currently live. All forms of power is oppressive.

#### 3. POST MODERNISM (10)

- Postmodernism means to acknowledge that the media can be deceiving and therefore, to not believe in what you research without critically evaluating it.
- Post modernism takes note of ones reason for responding because it may be misleading in the sense that its not a good guide in seeking the truth.
- Furthermore, postmodernism involves questioning science, encourages us to rethink our beliefs in science and the facts provided.

- Therefore, to search for true meaning with the help of experiencing all emotions.
- Simple questions are asked such as what is the human drive for this statement?
- Michael Foucault is a person who is associated with postmodernism.
- By asking a variety of open ended questions, one can use their own initiative in resisting the pressure to turn into workaholics.
- The first postmodernist was Friedrich Nietzsche during the 20th century.
- Post modernism is similar to critical rationalism in the sense of asking questions this is needed in order to not be vulnerable to societies negative influences. We need to take control of our own thoughts.
- Therefore, postmodernism empowers us to act and sniff out falsity.

#### 4. PHENOMENOLOGY (10)

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- Phenomenology is one of the method of inquiries of philosophy which deals with the process of people dealing with inner struggles as a means to figure out who they are in relation to our world, a complicated but needed process.
- An example of the inner struggles of phenomenology that people face is when society or pressure forces you to be or act in a certain way which is later something one may question about themselves and believe, can lead to a low self esteem. "I am in the world and the world is in me"
- The process in Phenomenology is believed to involve interacting with the real world (people) and forming deep connections especially with loved ones.
- Therefore, in search of the self but who you associate with is important, they can either build you up or break you down. People can easily make us lost in finding oneself.
- Therefore, phenomenology is of the self (who am I?), the community (who is my community?)

and the cosmic phenomenology which entails our place in the universe.

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- Falsity is seen as a dangerous thing when dealing the self because it can hamper ones phenomenology process.
- Africans deal with phenomenology (Extensialism). They still deal with problems from in the past such as racism and this can bring one down and with blacks being able to now today associate with whites, they still question their existence in the communities eyes and where they truly stand in reality, in relation to the universe because of problems such as these.
- Phenomenology promotes religious beliefs because its these values and morals that people live by that help them in seeking true inner peace and happiness, Buddha.
- Therefore, phenomenology encourages us to ask questions and
- Encourages people to resist demands and expectations from others and to critically evaluate how they feel and experience life while associating with positive people.

#### STUDENT NOTES

# EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXISTENTIALISM AND HERMENEUTICS, GIVE 5 IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK. (10)

- Hermeneutics uses symbols to help conjure human emotions whereas in existentialism they dont rely on symbols but self expression itself, encourages individualism.
- People depend on hermeneutics to create meaning and therefore, understanding whereas in existentialism, its a matter of depending on your belief from your own upbringing, making decisions and choices.
- Hermeneutics highlights the importance of dialogue in arriving at an understanding of an issue or listening to a song whereas with black existentialism, it is believed outside

influences such as songs can effect a persons existence by listening to a words that reflects racism.

- With hermeneutics such as songs it consists of words and how other people feel but with existentialism, they rely on their own intuition, feelings and thoughts.
- With hermeneutics, self expression is expressed in a variety of different shapes and form and from there its taking pieces that relate to us to create meaning and reach a certain level of understanding but with existentialism, its a matter of not just taking something that resignates with us but question peoples ideas and values.

#### **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK).**

Answer: characteristics of each theoretical framework). Existentialism says we must discover for ourselves the meaning of life.

#### Asks

'Is this how I want to spend my life? 'Says we must question other people's ideas and values. Says we need to be more open about ourselves. Claims happiness is linked to exploring 'the unexamined life

#### Hermeneutics

Asks 'How do we discover/create meaning? 'Claims the individual's life experience influences how he/she understands the world Asks 'Can human beings live without meaning?'

Says we need to be more tolerant of others. Says we need to be more understanding of others. Claims happiness is linked to exploring our own creativity. Claims images and

symbols speak to us

#### 2.1 WHAT IS THE MAIN EMPHASIS OF LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS?

Answer: Linguistic analysis concentrates on trying to find the exact meaning of words.

#### 2.2 ON WHAT DID RUSSELL AND AYER FOCUS IN THEIR WORK?

Answer: Logic, linguistic meaning and verifiable facts. (See LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS 'Philosophers at Work' RW)

#### DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CRITICAL THEORY AND CRITICAL RATIONALISM (6)

- In critical rationalism, it is believed that ideas should be based on facts whereas in critical theory it based on changing the system which is emotionally related because people have been hurt by people in power.
- In critical rationalism, their approach to solving a problem is to ask questions of an idea and then with another and so on whereas in critical theory, their approach to solving a problem is looking at the whole picture at a glance and not in parts and from there living by a way that can solve the problem.
- In critical rationalism, the reason for why we ask questions is to find out the truth whereas in critical theory, the reason why we live by a certain way is to stop the system, abusive power.

#### **TUTORIAL 201 2012 SEMSTER 1 & 2**

#### **CLASSIFICATION TABLE**

We give you another example apart from the mind maps in your study guide of how you can summarise your work to make it easier to learn for the exams. You need to expand on the table including for instance countries of origin, advantages, disadvantages, ideas on learning and teaching (use you multiple choice questions as well as the self study questions to guide you).

Theoretical Framework	Nature of inquiry	Key concepts	Some key thinkers
Logical empiricism	Truth as sense experience	Logic, deduction, fact, verification, analysis, experience, measurement	Hume, Ayer
Hermeneutics	Truth as understanding	Imagination, interpretation, language, cycle, observation, dialogue, life experience	Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, Gadamer
Systems theory	Truth as a whole	Whole, goal, function, analysis, complexity, dynamic, problem solving	Bertalanffy, Parsons
Feminism	Truth as being a women	Social roles, gender, analysis, reflection	Wollstonecraft, Hook, de Beauvoir, Woolf
Phenomenology	Truth as authenticity	Feeling, awareness, soul, consciousness, openness, inner world	Buddha, Husserl, Heidegger, Green, Vanderburg
Critical theory	Truth as unmasking	Ethics, power relations, oppression and marginalisation	Freire, Habermas, Chomksy, Fromm, Marcuse, Adomo, Horkheimer
African philosophy	Truth as African	Ubuntu, botho, community	Bodunrin, Dholomo, Fula, Gyekye, Hountondji, Mofolo, Mudimbe, Ofoegbu, Omi, Plaatjie, Seroto, Wiredu
Critical rationalism	Truth as exploration	Reason, falsity, values, debate, criticism, explanation	Socrates, Rousseau, Popper, Chomsky, Brezinska, Agassi, Zecha
Postmodernism	Truth as illusion	Emotion, instinct, drive, sexuality, imagery, cyber nightmares	Lyotard, Bataille, Lacan

# 3.2 Logical symbolism

This is a philosophical analysis which focused on linguistic analysis and also logical or rational thinking in order to arrive at the basic structure of truth.

# 3.3 Empiricism

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The philosophy which claims that all true knowledge is based on what we can experience for ourselves. It argues that experience is gained through the traditional five senses for it to be the most reliable form of information.

3.4 The most popular supporter of linguistic analysis is Bertrand Russell or AJ Ayer.