

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017

Second Year Fourth Semester

ENGLISH (HONOURS)

Age of Enlightenment

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* questions. Questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss what you understand by either 'Counter-Enlightenment' or the 'Dialectic of Enlightenment.'
2. a) How and why does Kant distinguish between the public and private uses of reason in his answer to the question 'What is Enlightenment?'
Or
b) How and why does Mendelssohn distinguish between the ideas of civic enlightenment and human enlightenment in his essay answering the question 'What is Enlightenment?'
3. a) Why does Bacon give his utopian fiction the title *New Atlantis*?
Or
b) How is Bacon's model of a scientific utopia unique in proposing a goal for posterity to achieve? Discuss with reference to Bacon's *New Atlantis*.
4. a) Do you notice a contradiction between the principles of reasoning described by Descartes gives in Part 2 of *Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting One's Reason* and the claims that he makes in Part 3 of the same book? Discuss.
Or
b) Compare Descartes' account of a condition of universal doubt in Part 1 of *Meditations of First Philosophy* with the method of doubt that he deploys in Part 4 to arrive at the certainty of Cogito.
5. a) On what basis has Spinoza been considered both a pantheist and an atheist? Explain with reference to the excerpts you have read from Spinoza's *Ethics*.
Or
b) To what extent did D'Holbach's radical philosophy in *The System of Nature* draw upon Spinoza's idea of Nature? Why was it criticized by other members of the 'coterie of D'Holbach'?