

Total No. of Printed Pages—7

5 SEM TDC ENG M 3

2 0 1 8

(November)

ENGLISH

(Major)

Course : 503

(Great European Thinkers)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32/24

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

UNIT—I

1. Answer any *one* of the following : 14

(a) "For that reason, let a prince have the credit of conquering and holding his state, the means will always be considered honest, and he will be praised by everybody because the vulgar are always taken by what a thing seems to be and by what comes of it; and in the world there are only the vulgar, for the few find a place there only when the many have no ground to rest on."

What does Machiavelli imply by the above statement? Discuss critically.

- (b) How, according to Machiavelli (Chapter XIX), can a prince avoid being despised and hated? Discuss.
- (c) In what context does Machiavelli cite Louis XII while elaborating on the idea of a mixed principality in Chapter III of *The Prince*? Examine.

UNIT—II

2. Answer any one of the following :

14

- (a) "The names of simple ideas the least doubtful." Examine critically the significance of the above remark by Locke.
- (b) "Now, since sounds have no natural connexion with our ideas, but have all their signification from the arbitrary imposition of men, the doubtfulness and uncertainty of their signification, which is the imperfection we are speaking of, has its cause more in the ideas they stand for than in any incapacity there is in one sound more than in another to signify any idea."
How does Locke establish that "doubtfulness and uncertainty" arises from the ideas they stand for? Discuss.

- (c) Examine on the basis of your reading of Locke's essay his contribution towards British empiricist philosophy.

UNIT—III

3. Answer any one of the following :

14

- (a) "Nothing can be more certain than that every man born in slavery is born for slavery. Slaves lose everything in their chains, even the desire of escaping from them : they love their servitude, as the comrades of Ulysses loved their brutish condition."

Examine how Rousseau presents a critique of 'slavery' in his *The Social Contract* (Book I) in the light of the above-mentioned statement.

- (b) What, according to Rousseau, are the functions of the 'sovereign' in maintaining the social contract? Discuss.
- (c) How do you justify the assertion that Rousseau's philosophical method "relies more on intuitively perceived principles than on empirical observation"? Examine critically on the basis of your understanding of the prescribed portions of *The Social Contract* (Book I).

UNIT—IV

4. Answer any one of the following : 14

(a) How is Marx's philosophy of history underscored in the selections from *The Communist Manifesto* ('Bourgeois and Proletariat')? Discuss critically.

(b) "The weapons with which the bourgeoisie felled feudalism to the ground are now turned against the bourgeoisie itself."

Examine critically the implications of the above remark (by Marx) in the context of the proletarian class struggle.

(c) How does Marx link history to economic determinism? Discuss on the basis of your reading of *The Communist Manifesto* ('Bourgeois and Proletariat').

UNIT—V

5. Answer any four of the following : 4×4=16

(a) Why does Machiavelli advocate the setting up of colonies in spaces that have been usurped? Discuss briefly.

- (b) Why does Locke posit that the names of mixed modes are liable to great uncertainty and obscurity in their signification? Examine.
- (c) Examine briefly the concept of "The Social Compact" as formulated by Rousseau.
- (d) How has the bourgeoisie given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption through its exploitation of the world market? Discuss briefly.
- (e) How has the work of the proletarians lost all individual character in a predominantly bourgeois economy? Examine briefly.
- (f) Why does Rousseau regard the family as the first model of political societies? State briefly.

UNIT—VI

6. Give very short answers to any *eight* of the following : 1×8=8

- (a) Where and when was Niccolo Machiavelli born?

- (b) Which scriptures, according to Locke, pose difficulties in understanding for commentators and interpreters?
- (c) When was Rousseau's *The Social Contract* published?
- (d) Apart from *The Communist Manifesto*, name one text of Karl Marx that has great contemporary (political and economic) relevance.
- (e) Which was the social formation that existed in Europe before the bourgeois capitalist formation came into being?
- (f) Who asserted that "to renounce liberty is to renounce being a man"?
- (g) To which aspect of Cartesian philosophy was Locke skeptical of?
- (h) Machiavelli's political philosophy is often compared with the works of an ancient Indian statesman. Who was this person?

- (i) Marx's theory of dialectical materialism marks a departure from the philosophical position of an important continental philosopher. Who was this philosopher?
- (j) Which eighteenth-century revolution in Europe seemed to have been infused with the spirit of Rousseau's philosophy?

★ ★ ★