

**THESES FOR ORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
BACHELOR IN PHILOSOPHY (PH.B)
AY 2014-2015**

Introduction to Philosophy and St. Thomas

1. The early journeys of St. Thomas Aquinas and their influence on the development of his philosophical thought.
2. The divisions of the Summa Theologiae.
3. The principles that explain substantial change.

Classical Logic (Aristotelian Logic)

4. The continuity of the three mental operations in the logical process.
5. The four general laws on categorical syllogisms.
6. The difference between modus ponens and modus tollens [Create a syllogism (special syllogism, hypothetical) by which both can be correctly applied].

Modern Logic (Symbolic Logic)

7. The historical background and development of symbolic logic from Aristotle to Bertrand Russel.

Philosophy of Nature / Cosmology

8. Quantity and the Principle of Individuation.
9. Aristotle's hylemorphic theory of nature
10. The distinction of substantial from accidental change.

Rational Psychology

11. The process of Ideogenesis.
12. The passions and the proper way to deal with them.
13. Volition follows cognition (the relationship between the intellect and the will)

Metaphysics

14. "Being" as Substance and Accidents. The accident as part of "being" according to *De Esse et Essentia*.

15. Act and Potency. The notion, their relation with one another, and the principles that govern their interaction by way of the metaphysical concept of "motion."
16. Unum, verum et bonum as transcendental properties.
17. Analogia attributionis et proportionalitatis. Analogia est convenientia plurium in aliqua ratione omnibus communi tantum secundum aliquam proportionem non secundum unam et eandem omnino significationem seu definitionem.
18. Notio metaphysicae ut scientia entis quae invenitur in operibus S. Thomae.

Theodicy

19. Aquinas' Five Ways of Proving the Existence of God.
20. The necessary will-acts and free will-acts in God.
21. The problem of the concept of Divine Simplicity in relation to the concept of Persons in God.

Epistemology / Critics

22. Critics is the specialized metaphysical study which validates the claim of being to knowledge founded on its transcendental property as truth.
23. Truth reveals itself in judgment.
24. The realistic theory of knowledge rests on the premises that
 - a. Our common sense, critically examined, can lead to us to an objective appreciation of the outside world.
 - b. Our mind is capable of attaining truth with certitude.
 - c. There is an objective world outside our mind which opens itself up for our knowledge.

Ethics

25. The nature and component of the human act: the intellective and volitive component and their effect on the morality of the act.
26. Norms of Morality: the interplay of the objective norm and the subjective norm
27. Conscience: as a moral faculty and as practical judgment. Conscience and Freedom.

Social Philosophy

28. State and Sovereignty in Thomas Hobbes' *The Leviathan*
29. The Social Contract: Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques' Rousseau

History of Ancient Philosophy

30. One or Many, Permanence or Change as Central Problems in Ancient Philosophy
31. Aristotle's theory of Moral Excellence/Virtue
32. Idealism and Plato's Theory of Knowledge

History of Medieval Philosophy

33. St. Augustine: Life and time. Augustine on the role of faith and reason, on the problem of certitude, on the human soul and on knowledge.
34. St. Bonaventure: Life and time. St. Bonaventure on God and Creation, on exemplarism, and on consummation as the road back.
35. St. Thomas Aquinas: Life and time. Aquinas on Creation, on the structure of Created Being, on human being, on knowledge and truth, and on the will and morality.

History of Modern Philosophy

36. Rene Descartes as the pioneer of the modern project.
37. The objectives of the modern projects as materialized in the political philosophy of Hobbes and Locke.
38. The modern project and the religious philosophy of Spinoza and Pascal.

History of Contemporary Philosophy

39. Nietzsche's project (genealogy) and his contribution to contemporary philosophy.
40. Zarathustra's wanderings among the heterogeneous men and women in the book that bears his name as exercises of the political, of historical mutation, and of human affairs in all of their wondrous, even if at times, confusing complexity.

Asian Philosophy I: Chinese Philosophy

41. The Key Concepts of Kong Zi
42. The pragmatism of Mo Zi.
43. The Key Concepts of Lao Zi.

Asian Philosophy II: Indian Philosophy

44. The doctrinal differences between Hinduism and Buddhism: ontology, epistemology, ethics, philosophy of man, and on the existence of God.
45. The Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.

Philosophy of Religion

Rev. Fr. Hermel Pama, OP

46. Give the five elements of Clifford Geertz's definition of religion. What are the strong points of the definition? What philosophical problems are brought about by such definition?
47. How is the dialectical relationship between materiality and spirituality demonstrated in the religious traditions of Southeast Asia?

Mr. Joel Sagut

48. The theist arguments in proving the existence of God: a) ontological argument, b) cosmological argument / design argument, c) teleological argument, 4) moral argument, and 5) argument from religious experience.
49. The tension between the concept of Divine Forgiveness and classical theism.
50. God's Hiddenness: Its contribution and challenge to theistic arguments about the existence of God.

Catholic Social Thought

51. The concept of "*private ownership*" as understood by capitalism, socialism and the social teaching of the Church.
52. The Principles of *Subsidiarity* and *empowerment* as important correctives to the possible lapses, excesses and abuses on socialization.
53. The call for *solidarity* and the *common good* as alternatives to capitalism's emphasis on competition and socialism's bias towards opposition and class struggle.