

## FIRST-SEMESTER EXAMINATION IN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

**Activity One:** The below-written paragraph contains a number of educational and philosophical mistakes. Try either to rewrite the paragraph correctly or highlight the mistakes providing correction.

The educational system is usually portrayed through Aristotle's "Allegory of the Cave", wherein the journey that a prisoner makes upwards represents the struggle and the transformations caused by education to achieve knowledge and transfer it to others. This allegory hints also at some humanistic traits like the duty of the instructor to enlighten others. In fact, every philosophical trend has considered humanism in a way. Unlike the Middle Ages that celebrated individual potential based on Greek and Roman texts, philosophy in the Renaissance-particularly Augustine's- tried to create balance between reason and divine illumination. The true sense of humanism was seen during the enlightenment, especially with the idea of empiricism that stresses natural goodness and freedom, and which paved the way to Herbert Spences' "moral autonomy" in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Modern and contemporary philosophies are very similar in the way they approach humanism; while the aim of the 20<sup>th</sup> century education is to humanize data, the 21<sup>st</sup> century is rather interested in liberating and changing the persons we are.

**The mistakes embodied in the passage are the following: (8 pts)**

- ✓ The Classical Age Philosophy never hinted at the idea of humanism, and not all philosophical traditions tackled humanism.
- ✓ The "Allegory of the Cave" belongs to Plato not Aristotle
- ✓ It is the Renaissance that celebrated individual potential based on Greek Texts.
- ✓ Augustine is a Medieval philosopher, and he always prioritized divine illumination
- ✓ The true sense of humanism was seen in the Renaissance, but was developed during the Enlightenment
- ✓ Empiricism is rather about learning by doing
- ✓ "Moral autonomy" is Kant's idea.
- ✓ Modern and contemporary philosophies are not similar in the way they approach humanism
- ✓ It is the 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy that aimed at liberating and changing the persons we are.

**Activity Two:** Read the following policy statement:

*"Education aims to equip learners with skills for lifelong learning, adaptability, and global citizenship."*

**Question:**

Identify two philosophical traditions present in this statement and one tradition that is absent. Justify your answer.

**Answer: (4 pts)**

**The two philosophical traditions present in the statement are: Pragmatism (especially what concerns skills and adaptability), social constructivism, the 20<sup>th</sup> century humanism, and also enlightenment cosmopolitanism (global citizenship). (2 pts)**

**The philosophical traditions that are absent can be: scholasticism, critical pedagogy, or even classical ethics due to the lack of moral or political grounding. (2 pts)**

**Activity Three: Complete these two statements: (4pts)**

“The philosophy of education becomes incoherent when **education** is treated as **a neutral practice**”

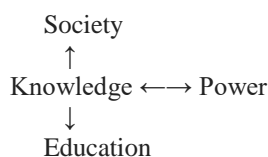
“while constructivism considers globalization as **a way to construe knowledge**, critical pedagogy views it as **threat to national identity and a tool of domination**”

**\*Justify your words in the first statement by means of referring to one philosophical period/tradition.**

**This idea can be justified by referring to **Critical Theory / Critical Pedagogy**. Thinkers such as **Paulo Freire** argue that education is never neutral; it is always embedded in social, political, and ideological contexts. Treating education as a purely technical or neutral activity ignores its role in either maintaining or challenging power relations. When education is stripped of its ethical and political dimensions, the philosophy of education loses coherence because it fails to explain how schooling contributes to social reproduction or emancipation.**

**(Other answers can be also accepted if the justification is valid)**

**Activity Four: Study the following diagram:**



**Identify the philosophical tradition(s) most clearly reflected in this diagram. Justify your answer. (4pts)**

**The diagram most clearly reflects Critical Theory, Critical Pedagogy, and Post-structuralism (Foucauldian thought). The diagram shows a dynamic and reciprocal relationship between knowledge and power, with education positioned as a mediating institution shaped by society and simultaneously shaping it. This directly echoes **Michel Foucault's** view that knowledge and power are inseparable and mutually constitutive. Knowledge is not simply transmitted through education; it is produced within power structures.**

MY LUCK WISHES  
YOUR TEACHER

