

Marx

Past Exam Questions

- 1) Discuss whether in *The German Ideology* Marx does what he thinks materialist history should do, i.e. "not explain practice from the idea but explain the formation of ideas from material practice."
- 2)
 - a) Describe clearly Marx's account of the materialist-idealist conflict given in *The German Ideology*. (12 Marks)
 - b) Discuss the implications of Marx's account for the study of philosophy. (13 Marks)
- 3) Marx & Engels argue that systems of ideas and beliefs derive from economic needs and class interests.
 - a) Describe the basis of their argument. (15 Marks)
 - b) Does their argument constitute a strong criticism of systems of ideas and beliefs ? (10 Marks)
- 4) Marx stated that "the philosophers have only interpreted the world differently, the point is to change it".

In the light of this statement discuss Marx's criticisms of Feuerbach and describe what you consider the statements implications are for the study of philosophy.
- 5) "For philosophers one of the most difficult tasks is to descend from the world of thought to the actual world."
 - a) Explain what Marx meant by the distinction between "the world of thought" and "the actual world". (10 Marks)
 - b) How successful is Marx himself in making the descent from the world of thought to the actual world in *The German Ideology* (15 Marks)
- 6) Discuss the importance of Marx's concept of Production in *The German Ideology*.
- 7) "All ideology is pure illusion." In what ways in *The German Ideology*, did Marx and Engels believe this to be true ?
- 8) "The *German Ideology* emphatically rejects the idea of human nature or human essence." Discuss.
- 9) In what senses is *The German Ideology* concerned with what Marx calls the "Liberation of Man"
- 10) "The communists do not teach morality at all." (Marx)
How much moral discussion do you find in *The German Ideology* ?