

**MINOR 1 EXAMINATION: SEMESTER I 2016-2017**

**COURSE NO. HUL360: SELECTED TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY**

Time: 1 Hour

(Sunday 28 August 2016)

Marks: 20

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**Answer either question no. 1 or question no. 2. Question no. 3 is compulsory**

1. "One cannot at any later stage of life hope to accede to [or accept] true moral responsibility for the way one is *by trying to change the way one already is* as a result of heredity and previous experience." (Galen Strawson)

Isn't the above remark of Strawson's *false*, given the fact that you *do* try to change the way you already are as a result of heredity and previous experience, and you often *succeed* in your sincere effort to change your existing nature brought about by heredity-and-previous-experience? Explain with reasons for your answer.

**(8 Marks)**

**OR**

2. Galen Strawson claims that "people cannot be supposed to change themselves in such a way as to be or become *truly* or *ultimately* morally responsible for the way they are, and hence for their actions."

Explain clearly what precisely is meant by "truly" or "ultimately" that is being used in the above remark to qualify, and thereby clarify, the concept of moral responsibility.

**(8 Marks)**

3. "What you intentionally do, given the circumstances in which you (believe you) find yourself, *flows necessarily* from how you are." (Galen Strawson)

If all your *intentional* or *voluntary* actions done in any given situation "flows necessarily" from what you already are (as a result of heredity and previous experience), then of course your doings are a causal-functional consequence of your already existing nature, just as, for example, the flow of air from an air conditioner is a necessary causal-functional consequence of an operative electrical system equipped with a compressor, a condenser, and an evaporator, including other elements needed to complete the system.

If your intentional action *flows necessarily* from the way your nature is in any given situation, similar to the way air flows necessarily from the way the air conditioner is designed to function, then you are no better, or no worse, than the air conditioner in so far as you do what you think you *freely* do. Are you really no different from the air conditioner? Give reasons for whatever your answer is.

**(12 Marks)**