**ARRUPE COLLEGE**

Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities

**BA Honours in Philosophy**

**CLASSICAL GREEK DRAMA APH 203**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**TWO (2) HOURS**

**ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST ONE FROM SECTION A AND ONE FROM SECTION B. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**Section A**

1. ‘The secular leaders of these plays speak and act as if they can anticipate the consequences of their actions but, in each play, fate or the gods control the form those consequences will take.’ How far do the three plays that we have studied confirm or contradict the accuracy of this remark?
2. ‘In each of these plays, the role of the priest or seer is not to give a moral direction to the people. His role is to tell the people how their actions have offended the gods and how they can recover their favour.’ Is this an accurate comment on the roles of Tiresias in *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone* and Calchas in *Iphigenia in Aulis*?
3. ‘Although the sacrifices which conclude each play are very different from one another, they serve a single purpose which is to bring the actions of men into harmony with the demands of the gods.’ Discuss this comment on the three plays.

**Section B**

1. ‘Because fate is so powerful a force in *Oedipus the King*, it is impossible that either Jocasta or Oedipus can exercise free will except through Jocasta’s suicide and Oedipus’ self mutilation.’ Discuss this comment on the play.
2. ‘Creon, in *Antigone,* is certain that the greatest wrong that a citizen can do is to betray his city. By the end of the play, however, we are aware that our loyalty to the city is only one feature of our moral life. Antigone knows that family, Zeus and the gods of death make their own demands on us and on our behaviour.’ Discuss this comment on the play.
3. ‘It is possible to read *Iphigenia in Aulis* as a celebration of Greek patriotism or as a cynical account of armies and their leaders who are interested in nothing but looting Troy.’ Do you agree that these are valid interpretations of the play? If you agree, which is the most valid? If you disagree, provide other possible interpretations.

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**