**ARRUPE COLLEGE**

Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities

**BA Honours in Philosophy**

**ST. AUGUSTINE AS A MAJOR THINKER: *THE* *CONFESSIONS* APH 511b**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**THREE (3) HOURS**

**ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS ONLY. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

1. “You have made us for Yourself O Lord and our hearts are restless until they rest in You” (*Conf* I.1). Discuss the meaning and significance of this statement with his analysis of the roots of his depression over the death of his friend in his hometown (cf. *Conf* IV. 15-18).
2. In *Conf* VI. 9-10 Augustine describes his encounter with a drunken beggar in the streets of Milan. Explain the meaning and significance of this encounter for him at this stage of his life.
3. In *Conf* VII Augustine describes his gradual intellectual conversion to Christianity. Explain this conversion and include in your explanation Augustine’s overcoming certain beliefs of the Manichees he had long held. Also include an analysis of his admiration yet ultimate dissatisfaction with philosophy as well as his attraction to the letters of St. Paul.
4. In *Conf* VIII Augustine describes his inner conflict as that between “two wills”. Compare Augustine’s description of his inner conflict of two wills with Aristotle’s analysis in his *Nicomachean* *Ethics* VII of the inability of the morally weak man to choose what he knows is the right thing to do.
5. Just before he experiences his affective/emotional conversion, Augustine describes his inner conflict as that between his “old loves” and “Lady Continence”. Describe and explain the meaning and significance of this inner conflict.
6. Describe and analyze Augustine’s experience of conversion in the garden as he describes this in the final chapters of Book VIII.
7. Discuss the meaning and significance of Monica and Augustine’s mystical experience during the conversation they had on a balcony overlooking the garden in Ostia and in your answer compare this experience as Augustine describes it with what Aristotle holds about friendship and contemplation in his *Nicomachean Ethics* IX and X.
8. Monica’s death throws Augustine not only into grief but anguish. Describe the nature of that anguish and how by grace he is rescued from this anguish. Then compare this experience of grace with his conversion in the garden.

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**