

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

088 0190

BA EXAMINATION 2009

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (n): The Philosophy of Kant

Wednesday, 13 May 2009: 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Answer THREE questions, at least one from each section. Avoid overlap in your answers.

SECTION A

1. Does Kant offer convincing arguments for the claim that space is an a priori intuition?
2. Can Kant coherently maintain that an object can be both empirically real and transcendently ideal?
3. Does Kant offer a response to Hume in the Second Analogy? What is the structure of the argument?
4. What is the importance of self-consciousness for Kant's argumentative goals in the Transcendental Deduction?
5. Can Kant consistently maintain his thesis regarding the unknowability of things in themselves?
6. Does Kant present a plausible argument that our experience of external objects is as secure as our experience of our inner states?
7. How does Kant's account of transcendental illusion in the Dialectic aim to resolve traditional metaphysical problems? How does it relate to transcendental idealism?

TURN OVER

8. What is Kant's theory of the self? How does it differ from a rationalist or empiricist account?
9. How does Kant negotiate the claims of determinism and freedom? Is it a coherent strategy?
10. Discuss Kant's objections to rational theology and his own account of the role of God in philosophical inquiry.

Section B

11. Why does Kant think that only actions done from the motive of duty have moral worth? How plausible do you find this claim?
12. What is the importance of Kant's claim that we are genuinely free for his account of morality?
13. EITHER (A) Explain why it is morally wrong to make a false promise:
 - (i) according to the Humanity formulation of the Categorical Imperative, and
 - (ii) according to the Universal Law formulation of the Categorical Imperative.OR (B) Explain why it is morally wrong to refrain from helping others in need, when one is in a position to do so:
 - (i) according to the Humanity formulation of the Categorical Imperative, and
 - (ii) according to the Universal Law formulation of the Categorical Imperative.
14. What is the role of reflective judgment in the *Critique of Judgment*? How is it relevant to Kant's Critical philosophy?
15. What is the role of disinterestedness in Kant's aesthetic theory? Is it a plausible characteristic of aesthetic experience?
16. What is Kant's account of the experience of the sublime? How does it relate to our understanding of ourselves?
17. What is the nature of genius according to Kant? How does this conception relate to Kant's distinction between our appreciation of fine art and our appreciation of nature?

END OF PAPER