

BA EXAMINATION 2005

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (np): Nineteenth-Century German Philosophy

Answer THREE questions. You must answer questions on at least TWO philosophers. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. 'The I posits itself absolutely' (Fichte). Does this make sense of the self?
2. Discuss critically Fichte's conception of the 'primacy of the practical'.
3. What is Schelling's conception of nature, and is it coherent?
4. 'Aesthetic intuition is merely intellectual intuition become objective' (Schelling). Discuss.
5. What is Hegel's dialectical method? Can it be defended as a mode of philosophical enquiry?
6. Does Hegel believe in God?
7. Does Hegel's work have any relevance for contemporary philosophy?
8. 'Absolute idealism is transcendental idealism without the thing in itself.' Is this true? And, if so, is it an objection to absolute idealism?
9. 'The world is my representation.' Evaluate Schopenhauer's defence of this claim of his.
10. 'The action of the body is nothing but the act of will objectified' (Schopenhauer). Discuss.
11. Schopenhauer's *On the Basis of Morality* 'contains much humane wisdom on the subject of morals' (Iris Murdoch). Do you agree?
12. 'Schopenhauer's pessimism is easily refuted, and his doctrine of salvation is incoherent.' Discuss one or both of these claims.

TURN OVER

13. Does Nietzsche have anything important to tell us about the concept of truth?
14. What, if anything, does Nietzsche offer in place of the ascetic ideal?
15. EITHER (a) Why does Nietzsche introduce the concept of eternal recurrence, and does it serve its intended end?
- OR (b) Should Nietzsche's doctrine of will to power be taken at face value?
16. EITHER (a) What philosophical method is employed by Nietzsche in *On the Genealogy of Morals*?
- OR (b) Is it Nietzsche's belief that the choice of values reduces to a matter of taste?

END OF PAPER