

BA EXAMINATION 2004

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (np): Nineteenth-Century German Philosophy

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

1. What is Fichte's account of the self, and is it convincing?
2. Elucidate Fichte's claim that the foundations of philosophy must be practical.
3. Discuss Schelling's conception of nature AND/OR his conception of art.
4. EITHER (a) Explain the concept of 'subject-object identity' and its importance for the German idealists.

OR (b) Discuss the concept of the Absolute with reference to Schelling AND/OR Hegel.
5. How can Hegel describe his dialectical method as 'skeptical' and yet hold that it provides the correct route to philosophical knowledge?
6. 'The concept of recognition is crucial for an adequate elucidation of intersubjectivity.' Discuss with reference to Fichte AND/OR Hegel.
7. Does Hegel's theory of ethical life improve on Kant's conception of morality?
8. Does German idealism provide a convincing answer to Jacobi's complaint that philosophy terminates in 'nihilism'?
9. Must a system of philosophy rest on a single principle? Discuss with reference to any of Fichte, Schelling and Hegel.
10. 'Schopenhauer fails to argue convincingly either that the world is representation or that the world is will.' Discuss.
11. What kinds of self-knowledge are possible, according to Schopenhauer?
12. Give a critical account of Schopenhauer's distinction between aesthetic experience and ordinary experience.

13. Could Schopenhauer's conception of morality survive without his metaphysical claim that there are no individuals in the realm of the thing in itself?
14. EITHER (a) Does Schopenhauer have good grounds for the claim that it would have been better for us not to have existed?
OR (b) Critically assess Schopenhauer's account of how and why 'salvation' is to be reached.
15. What value, if any, does Nietzsche find in slave morality?
16. EITHER (a) Outline and evaluate Nietzsche's critique of pity.
OR (b) Does Nietzsche demonstrate that our common sense conception of moral responsibility is untenable?
17. What does it mean to claim that life is essentially will to power? Is Nietzsche right to do so?
18. EITHER (a) Does the philosophical force of Nietzsche's arguments in the *Genealogy* depend on the historical accuracy of his claims?
OR (b) What, for Nietzsche, is the value of truth?

END OF PAPER