

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2007

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (o): Nineteenth-Century German Philosophy

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

1. What philosophical problems does Fichte hope to solve by absolutising the I, and to what extent is he successful?
2. What, for Fichte, is the philosophical significance of moral consciousness? Is his account defensible?
3. Under what assumptions, if any, is Schelling's account of nature defensible?
4. Elucidate and evaluate Schelling's claim that art allows us to grasp the identity of the subjective and the objective.
5. 'The battle of reason is the struggle to break up the rigidity to which the understanding has reduced everything' (Hegel). Discuss.
6. What is Hegel's conception of the self? Can it be vindicated?
7. What is Hegel's attitude to the idea that there is a given element to experience? Is he right?
8. Can Hegel's use of religious language be defended?
9. What does Schopenhauer mean when he tells us that objects are representations? Can his claim be defended?

TURN OVER

10. 'We ourselves are the thing in itself' (Schopenhauer). Does Schopenhauer succeed in proving that this is so?
11. Does Schopenhauer show how altruism is possible?
12. Is suffering an objection to life? (Discuss with reference to Schopenhauer AND/OR Nietzsche.)
13. EITHER (a) Is Nietzsche a philosopher?

OR (b) What serious use can the philosophy of Nietzsche be put to?
14. Is there anything of value to be found in Nietzsche's critique of morality?
15. How are we to understand Nietzsche's commitment to the value of truth?
16. In considering 19th century German philosophy, how useful is the distinction between philosophy and the history of philosophy?

END OF PAPER