

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

088 0140

BA EXAMINATION 2008

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (g): Aesthetics

Tuesday, 13 May 2008:10.00-13.00

Answer THREE questions. Candidates taking optional paper (l) Philosophy of Kant may NOT attempt question 4, marked by an asterisk. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Assess Plato's reservations concerning the effects of poetry.
2. Should we accept Aristotle's account of the value of tragic drama?
3. 'The principal weakness of Hume's account of taste is his blithe optimism about the uniformity of response of his true judges of artistic value.' Discuss.
- *4. EITHER (a) What is the basis of Kant's deduction of pure judgements of taste? Is it secure?
OR (b) 'Kant's emphasis on form in his account of beauty makes it difficult for him to give a convincing account of art.' Discuss.
5. Does Schiller justify his claim that the aesthetic state mediates the opposition of freedom and nature?
6. How is Hegel's claim that art is a form of 'absolute spirit' best understood?
7. Explain and evaluate Nietzsche's claim that in Greek tragedy 'appearance is given the most profound significance, through Dionysus'.

TURN OVER

8. EITHER (a) Assess Croce's claim that intuitive responses to art generate genuine understanding.
- OR (b) What, according to Collingwood, is the distinctive truth in art?
9. How do pictures represent?
10. EITHER (a) Should art be defined by reference to the production of an aesthetic experience?
- OR (b) Does it make any aesthetic difference if a work is discovered to be a forgery?
11. What do we mean when we say of a piece of music that it is sad?
12. Is it rational to respond emotionally to characters and events described in fiction?
13. Can an ethical defect in a work of art be an aesthetic merit?
14. To what extent do facts about the artist's intention or the history of an artwork matter to its correct appreciation?
15. Are any works of art physical objects?
16. EITHER (a) Are aesthetic judgements objective or subjective?
- OR (b) Are aesthetic concepts 'condition-governed' (Sibley)?

END OF PAPER