

**BA EXAMINATION 2008**

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

Optional Subject (r): Marxism

**Monday, 28 April 2008:10.00-13.00**

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. EITHER (a) Critically examine Marx's distinction between political and human emancipation.  
  
OR (b) 'Marx's conception of alienated labour depends on a conception of non-alienated labour which is simply unattainable in any large scale society.' Discuss.
2. 'The Philosophers have only interpreted the world. The point, however, is to change it.' Discuss.
3. 'There is no doubt that Marx thought that a communist society would be better for human beings than capitalism. This is all the evidence one needs that, despite his denials, Marx made moral judgements about the merits of different forms of society.' Discuss.
4. EITHER (a) Explain Marx's concept of the 'reserve army of labour'. What is its role in his economic theory?  
  
OR (b) Does Marx's economic analysis show that capitalism will inevitably break down?
5. EITHER (a) 'With the demise of the labour theory of value, the whole edifice of Marx's economic analysis comes crashing down.' Discuss.  
  
OR (b) Does Marx have good reasons to deny that the desire for a commodity plays a central role in determining its price?
6. Does historical materialism overlook the fact that human beings are free agents for whom nothing is inevitable?

**TURN OVER**

7. How did Marx think that communism would be organized?
8. EITHER (a) What does Marx mean by 'fettering'? What role does it play in his theory of history?
- OR (b) What problems are there in trying to distinguish the base and the superstructure? Can they be resolved?
9. EITHER (a) 'The idea that there are "purposes" in history is essential to historical materialism, yet ruled out by Marx's materialist method. Therefore historical materialism is indefensible.' Discuss.
- OR (b) Explain Marx's distinction between the forces of production and the relations of production. Are there good reasons for believing that the productive forces will tend to develop over time?
10. Is there a distinctively Marxist aesthetics?
11. Can any society claim to have achieved, either now or previously, communism as Marx envisaged it?
12. How compelling is Marx's critique of religion?
13. Critically examine Marx's concept of ideology.

**END OF PAPER**