

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**BA EXAMINATION 2006**

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

Optional subject (g): Aesthetics

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Why does Plato banish the poets?
2. EITHER (a) What, for Aristotle, is the value of tragic art?  
OR (b) Elucidate and evaluate Nietzsche's claim that tragedy provides a 'justification' of existence.
3. Can Hume meet the objection that no one who is not already a true judge has any reason to attend to the true judges' critical opinions?
4. Does Kant succeed in explaining how judgements of taste can rest on a purely subjective ground, and yet lay claim to universal validity?
5. EITHER (a) What connection does Schiller establish between beauty and freedom?  
OR (b) Is the subjectivity of a work of art's aesthetic character any bar to the objectivity of our estimates of it?
6. 'Music gives us the secret history of our will' (Schopenhauer). Discuss.
7. Explain the distinction between a convincing depiction and an accurate description.
8. Can a work of art be emotionally expressive without being representational?
9. Is it irrational to experience fear or pity for fictional characters?

**TURN OVER**

10. EITHER (a) If a work of art is not a physical object, what kind of thing is it?  
OR (b) Could a piece of driftwood be a work of art?
11. Should literary interpretation be constrained by authorial intention?
12. Does a work of art's being a forgery change its aesthetic value?
13. Can art serve moral ends without betraying its aesthetic character?
14. EITHER (a) In what sense is authentic art true to nature?  
OR (b) Is nature too different from art for it to be contemplated aesthetically?
15. 'The controlling intelligence is not the best judge of performance.' Discuss.
16. How, if at all, can art contribute to knowledge?

**END OF PAPER**