

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2007

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. Does Plato's attack on *mimesis* apply equally well to painting as to poetry?
2. 'Tragedy, according to Aristotle, is a type of therapy for individuals and communities.' Discuss.
3. 'Hume's Standard of Taste requires a uniformity of human nature that he himself denies.' Discuss.
4. EITHER (a) What is the role of a *common sense* in Kant's analysis of pure judgements of taste?

OR (b) Why does Kant insist that aesthetic ideas are such that no concept can be adequate to them?
5. Should beauty be valued for its own sake?
6. 'Art is an expression of human freedom.' Discuss.
7. Why does Hegel claim that art 'no longer satisfies our supreme need'? Is he right?
8. 'Whoever thinks that Shakespeare's theatre has a moral effect, and that the sight of Macbeth irresistibly repels one from the evil of ambition, is in error' (Nietzsche). Discuss.
9. Do pictures represent what they resemble?

TURN OVER

10. EITHER (a) Can anything that can be viewed, be viewed aesthetically?
OR (b) Could an established artist make anything into a work of art?
11. EITHER (a) Can a work of art be authentic without being original?
OR (b) Is there any aesthetic difference between an original artwork and a perfect forgery?
12. Are emotional responses to fiction irrational?
13. Is an ethical merit in an artwork always an aesthetic merit?
14. To what extent should the interpretation of a work of art be guided by the author's intentions?
15. 'Conceptual art conveys only trivial knowledge.' Discuss.
16. 'A musical work that failed to make people sad could not express sadness.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER