

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (m): Continental Philosophy from Hegel

Answer THREE questions.

1. EITHER (a) 'Hegel's philosophy provides a powerful response to scepticism'.
Discuss.

OR (b) Does Hegel succeed in showing that empiricism is ill-founded?

2. EITHER (a) 'Hegel demonstrates the essentially social nature of reason'.
Discuss.

OR (b) What do we know, on Hegel's account, when we attain cognition of the Absolute?

3. EITHER (a) Assess Schopenhauer's argument for the claim that the thing in itself is will.

OR (b) Is there any sense in which Schopenhauer can be said to be a materialist?

4. EITHER (a) How good are Schopenhauer's grounds for philosophical pessimism?

OR (b) What is the value of aesthetic experience for Schopenhauer? How plausible is his position?

5. EITHER (a) How do Nietzsche's investigations into the origins of morality contribute to his purported revaluation of it?

OR (b) Why does Nietzsche think the self is an illusion, and why does he think we succumb to the illusion?

6. EITHER (a) What importance does the idea of eternal recurrence have in Nietzsche's philosophy?
- OR (b) How feasible is Nietzsche's project of 'becoming oneself'?
7. EITHER (a) 'Husserl's phenomenology provides a coherent alternative to representational realism'. Discuss.
- OR (b) Why is it necessary, according to Husserl, to begin philosophising from the phenomenologically reduced standpoint? Is he right?
8. EITHER (a) What does Husserl find appealing, and what does he reject, in Descartes' philosophical project?
- OR (b) Does Husserl's transcendental idealism condemn him to solipsism?
9. EITHER (a) To what extent does Heidegger's account of Being-in-the-world as care provide a genuine alternative to traditional epistemology?
- OR (b) How does mood determine the way in which entities in the world 'matter' to Dasein?
10. EITHER (a) 'Death is Dasein's "ownmost possibility".' Discuss.
- OR (b) What does Heidegger wish to convey in saying that the essence of technology lies in enframing?
11. EITHER (a) 'The for-itself is the in-itself losing itself as in-itself in order to found itself as consciousness' (Sartre). Explain and discuss.
- OR (b) What are 'concrete nothings' (négatités) and what do they reveal about my relation to the world?
12. EITHER (a) How, in Sartre's view, does the pre-reflective cogito relate to deliberate reflection upon the self?
- OR (b) What, if anything, does Sartre's discussion of bad faith add to our ordinary understanding of self-deception?
13. EITHER (a) What is the significance of Merleau-Ponty's critique of objective thought?

OR (b) Does Merleau-Ponty's account of freedom improve upon Sartre's account of freedom?

14. EITHER (a) Compare Merleau-Ponty's account of intersubjectivity with EITHER Sartre's account OR Husserl's account.

OR (b) What can we learn from the Schneider case?

END OF PAPER