

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2006

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (r): Marxism

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. EITHER (a) How should we understand the idea of the state as itself a form of alienation?

OR (b) 'It follows from Marx's theory of alienation that no form of economy can escape alienated labour. Therefore it is no criticism of capitalism to assert that it involves alienated labour.' Discuss.
2. EITHER (a) 'Despite its crudity, Marx's critique of religion is an essential element of his overall analysis.' Discuss.

OR (b) Critically examine Marx's concept of 'Praxis'.
3. EITHER (a) 'If Marx did not believe that capitalism to be unjust, he would not have argued that all capitalist profit comes from the exploitation of the worker.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his need.' Is this intended by Marx to be a principle of justice?
4. EITHER (a) Does the labour theory of value show that capitalism will inevitably break down?

OR (b) 'All the difficulties for, and counter-examples to, Marxist economics can be solved by abandoning the labour theory of value, and using demand and supply theory instead.' Discuss.
5. EITHER (a) Does Marx have any good arguments to support the labour theory of value?

OR (b) Was Marx right to think that different economic concepts and laws apply to different economic epochs?

TURN OVER

6. EITHER (a) What does Marx mean by saying that the economic structure will come to 'fetter' the productive forces? Is a coherent account of fettering possible?

OR (b) Is there any good reason to think that the productive forces have a tendency to develop throughout history?
7. Does historical materialism overlook the influence that exceptional individuals can exert on history's course?
8. EITHER (a) Critically examine Marx's concept of 'class'.

OR (b) What is the role of class struggle in Marx's theory of history?
9. How strong is the anarchist criticism of Marx that the dictatorship of the proletariat will prove to be no better than the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie?
10. Has Lukács made an important contribution to Marxist theory?
11. Is there a distinctively Marxist approach to aesthetics?
12. Is it right to see Critical Theory as part of a Marxist tradition of thought?
13. "'Kantian Marxism' is a contradiction in terms.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER