

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2007

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) 'The young Marx saw more deeply into the philosophical and political problems of his age than any of his contemporaries.' Discuss, using at least one example.

OR (b) Does Marx provide any insight into the nature of a non-alienated society?
2. What, in Marx's view, is erroneous in previous forms of materialism and idealism?
3. How plausibly can it be argued that Marx's discussion of history and capitalist society does not depend in any way on moral concepts?
4. EITHER (a) Explain the 'transformation problem' in Marxist economics. What is its significance?

OR (b) For Marx, is economic exploitation a relation between classes or between individuals?
5. EITHER (a) Is Marx's analysis of the wage rate in capitalism an application of the labour theory of value; a problem for the labour theory of value; both; or neither?

OR (b) What does Marx mean by 'commodity fetishism'? Does commodity fetishism involve a mistake?
6. 'No rational member of the proletariat would ever engage in revolutionary struggle.' Discuss.
7. Is it plausible that communism will see a 'withering away of the state'?

TURN OVER

8. EITHER (a) Why did Marx say that under communism work will become 'life's prime want'? Is there anything to be said for this view?
- OR (b) To what extent, if any, does Marxism rest on a distinctive view of human nature?
9. EITHER (a) Does historical materialism need to appeal to functional exploitation? If not, how can historical materialism otherwise be made consistent? If so, is this a strength or a weakness?
- OR (b) Explain Marx's distinction between the forces of production and the relations of production. Are there good reasons for believing in the primacy of the forces?
10. Has any 20th Century Marxist made a fundamental contribution to Marxist theory?
11. 'For Marx, art gives a glimpse of the society of the future.' 'For Marx, art is mere ideology.' Is either of these claims an accurate statement of Marx's view?
13. 'Marxism is a failed synthesis of Hegel and Darwin.' Discuss.
14. EITHER (a) According to Marx, 'the criticism of religion is the presupposition of all criticism'. How do you understand this? Did Marx adhere to this project throughout his work?
- OR (b) How are we to combine Marx's analysis of ideology with the statement that 'The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas'?

END OF PAPER