

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (p): Marxism

Answer THREE questions.

1. EITHER (a) Expound and evaluate the critique of liberal rights offered by Marx in 'On the Jewish Question'.

OR (b) How convincing are Marx's criticisms of Hegel's account of the relation between State and civil society?

2. EITHER (a) What is alienated labour, and what would unalienated labour be like?

OR (b) In what way, or ways, does Marx think that money and credit are alienating?

3. Evaluate Marx's assessment of Feuerbach's critique of religion.

4. 'The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles'. Explain and evaluate this statement.

5. EITHER (a) Is the distinction between base and superstructure coherent?

OR (b) According to Marx's theory of history, is communism inevitable?

6. EITHER (a) Explain and evaluate Marx's 'law of the tendency of the rate of profit to fall'.

OR (b) What is the 'transformation problem'? What is its significance for Marxist economics?

7. Is Marx right that, under capitalism, the exploitation of labour is the source of all profit?

8. EITHER (a) What was Marx's attitude to morality?

OR (b) Did Marx think that a communist society would be a just society?

9. EITHER (a) Is Marxism a materialism in a strictly philosophical sense?

OR (b) In what way did Marx seek, in his 'Theses on Feuerbach', to synthesise elements of idealism and materialism? Did he succeed?

10. EITHER (a) Assess the role played by the idea of a vanguard in Lenin's political philosophy?

OR (b) Compare and contrast the views of Marx and Lenin on the dictatorship of the proletariat.

11. EITHER (a) In order to render historical materialism consistent, is it necessary to construe it as involving functional explanations?

OR (b) Evaluate the claim that the development of the productive forces is the fundamental process in human history.

12. Evaluate the contribution to Marxist theory of any twentieth-century Marxist.

13. Could there be an aesthetics which is genuinely Marxist?

14. Was Soviet communism an authentic realisation of Marx's aspirations for future society?

END OF PAPER