

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2004

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (jl): Medieval Philosophy

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. How, according to Augustine, are sins caused? How defensible is his answer?
2. 'If there were an all-powerful, all-good God, there would be no evil of any kind—neither sin nor suffering.' How, and how effectively, did Augustine argue against this claim?
3. EITHER (a) Does Augustine argue successfully that we cannot know anything without the help of God?

OR (b) Does Augustine argue successfully that we cannot be good without the help of God?
4. What did Jerome say about God's power to restore a fallen woman to virginity? How, and how well, did Peter Damian argue against it?
5. EITHER (a) What, if anything, did Boethius think we cannot rationally understand about the Trinity?

OR (b) Why did Boethius think that things are good insofar as they are created by God?
6. Evaluate the views of EITHER Boethius OR Abelard on the question of universals.
7. Evaluate Eriugena's idea that God can be identified with non-being.
8. What did Anselm think we can conclude from the definition of God as 'that than which nothing greater can be conceived?' Is he right?
9. What was Avicenna trying to show in the Flying Man Argument? How successful was he?
10. How good are Aquinas' grounds for rejecting Averroes' view that there is one potential intellect for all humans?
11. Is Aquinas' theory of analogy a successful compromise between negative theology and positive theology?

12. What was Aquinas' view of the claim that the present and the past, as such, are necessary?
13. Did Aquinas succeed in reconciling the openness of the future with the infallibility and completeness of God's knowledge of the future?
14. Evaluate EITHER the position of al-Ghazali OR the position of the 'Latin Averroists' (Boethius of Dacia and Siger of Brabant) on the eternity of the world.
15. EITHER (a) What criticisms did Ockham make of Burley's account of universals. How effective were they?
OR (b) What did Ockham take universals to be? How defensible is his view?

END OF PAPER