

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (j): Medieval Philosophy

Answer THREE questions.

1. Why was the issue of the origin of the soul such a problem for Augustine throughout his philosophical career?
2. Does Augustine solve the problem of evil?
3. 'Augustine's theory of time constitutes an original advance upon the theories of the Neoplatonists'. Discuss.
4. Is Boethius' account of eternity coherent?
5. EITHER (a) 'The solutions of Augustine and Boethius to the dilemma occasioned by the existence of human freedom and divine omniscience are in principle much the same'. Discuss.

OR (b) Does Boethius' distinction between simple and conditional necessity enable him to reconcile divine omniscience with openness of the future?
6. Critically assess Eriugena's theory of human nature.
7. What is the principle of bivalence? Does Boethius endorse the principle -- in either an unqualified or qualified form -- in his commentaries on De Interpretatione?
8. How, and how successfully, does Boethius use Aristotelian categories to explain why the doctrine of the trinity is consistent with monotheism?

9. What is Abelard's theory of atonement? Is it plausible?
10. What is the central idea in Abelard's ethical theory? What objections can be raised against it?
11. Discuss and evaluate Anselm's argument for the existence of truth.
12. Does Aquinas succeed in showing that the divine attribute of omnipotence is logically coherent?
13. Explain and assess Aquinas' view that the soul is the form of the body.
14. Should Aquinas be taken as holding that the natural law can be action-guiding?
15. What are Scotus' arguments for the sceptical conclusion that the immortality of the soul cannot be proved by natural reason? Do they work?
16. Do Scotus' observations on language provide us with any good reason to doubt Aquinas' theory of analogy?
17. Outline and assess the strengths and weaknesses of Occam's account of universals.
18. Does Occam succeed in reconciling divine foreknowledge and human free will?

END OF PAPER