

BA EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY5. Modern Philosophy from Bacon and Descartes to Kant

Friday, May 2nd, 2003, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Answer THREE questions, at least ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B. Candidates taking optional paper (I) Philosophy of Kant may NOT attempt questions from Section C. Avoid overlap in your answers.

SECTION A

1. Explain and discuss Descartes's use of sceptical arguments in the *Meditations*.
2. 'The proof of the existence of God in the *Third Meditation* marks the point at which Descartes's enterprise finally and irretrievably collapses.' Discuss.
3. EITHER (a) Can Descartes reconcile his claim that mind and body are distinct with his claim that they form a unit?
OR (b) Explain and assess Descartes's argument for the real distinction between mind and body in the *Sixth Meditation*.
4. Evaluate Spinoza's proof that there can be no more than one substance.
5. To what extent is Spinoza's metaphysics a revision of the ordinary view of the world?
6. EITHER (a) 'Each thing, as far as it can by its own power, strives to persevere in its being.' What can this explain about humans?
OR (b) Explain why Spinoza thinks that the mind is the idea of the body.
7. EITHER (a) How does Leibniz arrive at an understanding of things as

- consisting of monads?
OR (b) What problems is Leibniz's account of monads designed to solve?

8. Can Leibniz consistently maintain that Caesar was free not to cross the Rubicon?
9. Critically discuss Leibniz's grounds for holding that this is the best of all possible worlds.

SECTION B

10. How successful is Locke's attack on innate notions in Book I of the *Essay*?
11. '...the [particular] substance is supposed always *something* besides the extension, figure, solidity, motion, thinking, or other observable ideas, though we know not what it is' (*Essay*, II.xxiii.3). Is Locke a friend or an opponent of substratum substance? What are his reasons for his view?
12. Can Locke's account of personal identity be defended against its critics?
13. EITHER (a) 'Do we eat, drink and wear ideas?' How well does Berkeley deal with the objection that such a suggestion is absurd?
OR (b) What use does Berkeley make of the principle that 'an idea can be like nothing but an idea'? Is it a defensible principle?
14. 'Berkeley's argument for God's existence is just that there must be a God to keep things in existence when we are not perceiving them.' Is this a fair judgement?
15. 'Berkeley's arguments against material substance would work equally well against immaterial substance.' Discuss.
16. What role does the imagination play in Hume's philosophy?
17. Is Hume a sceptic about the existence of the external world?
18. EITHER (a) Does Hume hold that inferences from past experience to the future cannot be rationally justified?
OR (b) Why does Hume provide two definitions of 'cause'?

SECTION C

19. Does Kant succeed in showing that the concept of space is not an empirical concept?
20. What is the connection between forms of judgement and the categories?

21. 'Without things in themselves appearances cannot amount to knowledge; with them knowledge becomes impossible.' How might Kant respond to this criticism?
22. Does Kant establish any a priori connection between causation and the objective time-order of events?

END OF PAPER