

BA EXAMINATION 2002

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (I): The Philosophy of Kant

Monday, 13 May 2002: 10.00 – 1.00

Answer THREE questions, at least ONE from EACH section. Avoid overlap in your answers.

SECTION A

1. EITHER (a) Kant claims that space and time are forms of sensibility. What does this claim mean and how does he justify it?
OR (b) What is Kant's argument for the claim that geometrical judgements are a priori synthetic?
2. EITHER (a) Explain and discuss Kant's notion of the self.
OR (b) 'The unity of this apperception I likewise entitle the transcendental unity of self-consciousness, in order to indicate the possibility of a priori knowledge arising from it.' (B132) What is this unity, and how, if at all, is it related to a priori knowledge?
3. Critically expound the nature and purpose of the Transcendental Deduction of the Categories.
4. What is Kant trying to achieve in the Schematism? Is he successful?
5. Explain and discuss Kant's argument in support of the Second Analogy.
6. EITHER (a) Explain and discuss the phenomenon/noumenon distinction.
OR (b) Critically discuss whether it is legitimate to invoke the notion of a 'thing in itself' inaccessible to empirical investigation.
7. EITHER (a) What is Kant's answer to scepticism? Is it plausible?

- OR (b) Explain and discuss the sense in which Kant calls himself an 'idealist'.

TURN OVER

8. What does Kant mean by the 'Ideal of Pure Reason'? Is such a notion legitimate in terms of the theory of the first Critique?
9. Outline one of the Antinomies, and discuss Kant's proposed solution to it.

SECTION B

10. EITHER (a) How, according to Kant, are aesthetic judgements different from scientific and moral judgements?
- OR (b) In what sense are our judgements of taste disinterested, according to Kant?
11. Explain and assess Kant's distinction between free and dependent (or accessory) beauty.
12. Does Kant give a successful account of the value of fine art?
13. 'True sublimity must be sought only in the mind of the judging person, not in the natural object' (Kant). Discuss.
14. 'Any action may be reconciled with Kant's categorical imperative.' Discuss.
15. 'If I perform an act while wrongly believing it to conform to the categorical imperative, Kant must say that I display a good will.' Do you agree? Is this a problem?
16. What is the relation between Kantian ethics and virtue ethics?
17. What is Kant's account of free action?
18. 'According to Kant there can be no speculative but only a moral or practical proof of God's existence.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER