

BA EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (ik): Post-Aristotelian Philosophy

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Assess the Epicurean arguments for a cosmology without teleology.
2. Why were the Stoics led to postulate eternal recurrence? Were they able to solve philosophical difficulties associated with this doctrine?
3. EITHER (a) How successful are the Epicurean arguments to establish
the possibility of free will?

OR (b) 'If you are fated to recover from this illness, you will
recover, whether you summon a doctor or not; if you are fated
to die, you will die whether you summon a doctor or not; you are
fated either to recover or to die; therefore there is no point in
calling a doctor'. How do the Stoics deal with this 'lazy
argument'?
4. Explain and evaluate the Epicureans' strategy for dealing with (alleged) perceptual errors.
5. How and with what success do the Academics challenge the Stoics claim that there are cataleptic impressions?
6. Why should an Epicurean care for others?
7. Assess the part played by *oikeiosis* (appropriation) in Stoic ethics.
8. 'Virtue alone is good, vice alone is bad, and everything else is indifferent'. Assess the coherence of this Stoic view.
9. EITHER (a) Explain and evaluate the route to tranquillity outlined by
Sextus Empiricus.
OR (b) What are the Five Modes of Agrippa intended to achieve?
Do they do so successfully?

10. Assess the following claim: 'For Neoplatonists the One is the ultimate explanatory principle of everything, but the One is beyond our understanding. Therefore Neoplatonism is incoherent.'
11. According to Plotinus, what does it mean for a human to be free? How does this relate to what it means for the One to be free?
12. Does Plotinus solve the old problem of how embodied souls can have knowledge of the Forms?
13. EITHER (a) Does Plotinus' theory of time withstand criticism better than Aristotle's?
OR (b) Evaluate Augustine's understanding of time as a 'distension' measured only by the mind.
14. EITHER (a) Does Philoponus successfully refute Aristotle's arguments for the eternity of the world?
OR (b) Does Philoponus successfully refute Proclus' arguments for the eternity of the world?
15. EITHER: (a) Evaluate Plotinus' attempt to explain how there can be evils in a providentially arranged world.
OR (b) Evaluate Proclus' attempt to explain how there can be evils in a providentially arranged world.
16. How successful were Neoplatonists in their attempt to explain how God could foreknow future events without those events being necessary?
17. EITHER (a) What insights did Peripatetic commentators add to Aristotle's ethical theory?
OR (b) What insights did Neoplatonic commentators add to Stoic ethical theory?
18. How convincing are Porphyry's arguments against the sacrifice and eating of animals?

END OF PAPER