

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (i): Post-Aristotelian Philosophy

Answer THREE questions.

1. Are Aristotle's criticisms of atomism successfully rebutted by the Epicureans?
2. EITHER (a) Does Epicurus' distinction between kinetic and static pleasures provide a coherent basis for hedonism?  
  
OR (b) 'Death is nothing to us'. Give a critical assessment of the Epicurean argument for this conclusion.
3. Does the Epicurean swerve explain free will?
4. Assess the role played by empiricism in the Epicurean accounts of sign-inferences.
5. EITHER (a) Compare and contrast Epicurean and Stoic accounts of the nature of sensory impressions.  
  
OR (b) Assess the role played by preconceptions (prolepseis) in Epicurean epistemology.
6. EITHER (a) 'If the moon is made of green cheese, Tony Blair is Prime Minister'. Compare the ways in which at least TWO of the following would analyse this conditional: Philo, Diodorus, Chrysippus.  
  
OR (b) What difficulties are there for a Stoic theory of incorporeal lekta?
7. Assess the Stoic account of emotion.

8. EITHER (a) What is the Stoic account of 'preferred indifferents'? Is it consistent with their account of virtue?

OR (b) If the Stoics follow nature, can they do so unequivocally?

9. EITHER (a) Can the Stoics allow for moral responsibility within their determinist system?

OR (b) What would be a Stoic account of altruism?

10. EITHER (a) If Sextus Empiricus were to achieve his desired tranquillity, would he have to stop asking philosophical questions?

OR (b) Can the Pyrrhonist live his scepticism?

11. Was Alexander of Aphrodisias a nominalist?

12. EITHER (a) 'Plotinus is a non-representational realist about objects of sense perception'. Discuss.

OR (b) 'The soul does not remember anything since everything it might need is present to it always'. Discuss.

13. Does Plotinus' conception of happiness rest on an impoverished view of the self?

14. EITHER (a) If Plotinus' One has no relation to other things, how can other things stand in relations to the One?

OR (b) Does Plotinus succeed in solving Plato's problem as to how embodied souls could have knowledge of the Forms?

15. EITHER (a) How does Plotinus account for the experience of beauty?

OR (b) For Plotinus, is evil a serious threat to the goodness of the universe?

16. How helpful is the Tree of Porphyry for understanding predication?

17. Is Iamblichus' rejection of Pythagorean science compatible with his theurgy?

18. EITHER (a) Describe and assess Augustine's theory of the will.

OR (b) Does Augustine succeed in showing that time is an 'affection of the mind'?

19. Evaluate the philosophical utility of Proclus' triads.

20. Was Boethius right to think that timeless knowledge avoids determinism?

END OF PAPER