

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0060

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Aesthetics

Tuesday 3 June 2008: 2.30 – 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. If Plato banishes only poets and not painters from his ideal state, what is the point of the analogies between poetry and painting in Book 10 of the Republic?
2. **Either** (a) How does Aristotle's conception of tragedy allow him to defend the value of poetry?
Or (b) To what extent, if any, does the value of tragedy rest on its ethical implications?
3. Does Hume's Standard of Taste fail by merely replacing one relativistic account of taste by another?
4. **Either** (a) Assess Kant's claim that the judgment of taste is subjective. Is this compatible with the truth of such judgments?
Or (b) What is the Antinomy of Taste, and how successfully does Kant resolve it?
5. How successfully does Kant argue that nature gives rules to fine art through genius?
6. Is there a satisfactory way to account for the intuition that at least some of our emotional responses to fictional characters are rational?
7. 'Whatever knowledge we might acquire from art is likely to be banal.' Discuss.
8. 'The Presentational Theory of art is the only serious rival to the Ideal Theory.' Discuss.
9. **Either** (a) Does the proper understanding of a work of art make interpretation redundant?
Or (b) 'The complexity of high art makes it endlessly interpretable.' Discuss
10. Expound and assess Wollheim's account of
Either (a) depiction
Or (b) expression.
11. Does the discovery that a painting is a forgery alter its aesthetic value?
12. Explain how it is that music can be emotionally expressive.

13. Is there any connection between the moral character of a work of art and its aesthetic quality?
14. 'The sublime is an outmoded aesthetic category.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER