

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0380

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Arabic Philosophy

Friday 30 May 2008: 2.30 – 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions. Questions should be chosen from **AT LEAST TWO** sections. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Critically discuss al-Kindi's proof for God as the True One.
2. Assess the arguments given by al-Kindi and Saadia against the eternity of the world.
3. Who had the better of the tenth-century debate over the relative merits of logic and grammar?
4. Al-Farabi thinks that the Active Intellect plays a role in human intellection, and also gives forms to material objects. Explain these two functions and how they are related to one another.
5. Does Yahya Ibn 'Adi successfully show that God's foreknowledge is compatible with contingency?
6. Explain and evaluate Avicenna's argument for the Necessary Existent.
7. What is the purpose of Avicenna's 'flying man' argument? Does it achieve this purpose?
8. Explain the role of intuition (hads) in Avicenna's epistemology.
9. In his Deliverer from Error (Munqidh min al-Dalal), does al-Ghazali show convincingly how scepticism can be overcome?
10. Did Averroes believe that one and the same proposition can be true from the point of religion, but false from the point of view of philosophy?
11. Is Averroes' doctrine of the unity of the material intellect defensible?
12. **Either** (a) Who had the better of the dispute between al-Ghazali and Averroes over the eternity of the world?
Or (b) Who had the better of the dispute between al-Ghazali and Averroes over the possibility of miracles?
13. Evaluate Maimonides' stance on the question of divine attributes.
14. 'The Arabic philosophical tradition never managed to explain how God exercises a unique kind of causality in creating the world; creation is instead always assimilated to causation within the created world.' Discuss, with respect to at least one philosopher.

END OF PAPER