UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY
for Internal Students

AESTHETICS

Tuesday 14th September 1999
10.00 – 13.00

Answer THREE questions

1. How can our interest in tragedy be explained?

2. Does it make sense to suppose that the history of art could ever come to an end?

3. “The concept of expression is too indefinite to help in understanding the relation of art to emotion.” Do you agree?

4. “To assign a purpose to art is to reduce it to a mere means; but to deny it a purpose is to deny it value.” Can this dilemma be resolved?

5. Discuss critically Kant's treatment of the concept of art.

6. Elucidate and assess Kant's claim that ‘the feeling of the sublime in nature is respect for our own vocation’.

7. What, if anything, determines the correctness or incorrectness of an interpretation of a literary work of art?

8. “Whether an object qualifies as a work of art is ultimately a matter of decision, not of fact.” Discuss.

9. Are there good reasons for not being a realist about aesthetic qualities?

10. “The aesthetic appreciation of nature is the appreciation of nature as if it were art.” Discuss.

11. What is abstract about the art of music?

12. “A photograph must be of something actual. Hence photography is precluded from being a

representational art." Discuss.

13. Could there be principles of taste?

END OF PAPER