

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

M.A. EXAMINATION 2006

for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

- (1) What challenges might be raised against Socrates' denial of weakness of will in the *Protagoras*? How, if at all, can he meet them?
- (2) What does it mean to say that the soul has three parts? How plausible is this as an account of human motivation?
- (3) 'The demonstration with the slave in the *Meno* proves nothing. The discussion is rigged. Socrates has the answers from the outset, so he can lead the slave into giving the answers.' Discuss.
- (4) Can Socrates' distinction between knowledge and belief in *Republic V* persuade the sight-lovers that they have belief and not knowledge? If so, how? If not, why not?
- (5) In what sense is a Platonic form supposed to be a cause?
- (6) How intractable is the attack on the forms in the *Parmenides*?
- (7) In *Posterior Analytics* II. 19 does Aristotle seek to explain our early acquisition of concepts, our development of philosophical understanding, or something else?
- (8) 'What is cannot come to be, since it is already, and nothing can come to be out of what is not, since there must be some underlying subject'. *Physics* 1.8. How, and how successfully, does Aristotle's analysis of change respond to this dilemma?
- (9) Why, according to Aristotle, must there always have been a chicken before each egg?
- (10) 'Soul is the first actuality of a natural body potentially having life'. *De Anima* 11.1. Critically examine this definition of soul.
- (11) What is it, according to Aristotle, to be a happy person?

(12) Does Aristotle's notion of *akrasia* help explain why people sometimes do what they do not want to do?

(13) What, according to Aristotle, is the good of having friends?