

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0195

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Gender and Philosophy

Wednesday 20 May 2009 : 10.00 – 1.00 pm

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

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SECTION A

1. Why does Kant think that prostitution is morally problematic? How convincing do you find his arguments against prostitution?
2. Evaluate Kant's argument that in polygamous relationships (like concubinage) the woman inevitably is objectified.
3. How does marriage solve the problem of objectification, for Kant? What kinds of criticisms has Kantian marriage received by feminists?

SECTION B

4. Evaluate MacKinnon's claim that pornography *constitutes* women's subordination and objectification.
5. What, if anything, is problematic with women's being preoccupied with their appearance?
6. Can objectification ever take positive forms?

SECTION C

7. Discuss Okin's view that in order to end dominance we must change both the family structure and the work structure.
8. Why does English believe that abortion can be justified on the grounds of self-defence? How plausible do you find her position?
9. Do you agree with Bordo that depriving a woman of control over her reproductive life is treating her as a 'mere foetal container', and thus constitutes an assault to her personal integrity and autonomy?

SECTION D

10. 'It is high time to let go of the illusion that "man" and his accomplice "he" are equitable representatives of women' (Mercier). Discuss.
11. Could it ever be right to say that a particular social group was at a disadvantage because of a lack of conceptual resources in the language used in their community?

12. Do arguments from autonomy succeed in showing that hate speech should not be restricted?

SECTION E

13. Critically discuss Plumwood's analysis of dualism and how to overcome it.

14. Why does De Beauvoir argue that women should 'transcend femininity'? Is her argument persuasive?

15. 'The distinction between sex and gender is an objectionable dualism.' Discuss.

SECTION F

16. Explain how 'reason' has been problematized in feminist philosophy. Is there really a problem?

17. 'The claim of a "crisis of reason" makes no sense, because the claim itself can only be backed up by reason.' Discuss.

18. What is 'testimonial injustice'? How can we avoid perpetrating it?

END OF PAPER