

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**577 0165**

**MA Examination**  
for Internal Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle**

Tuesday 26 May 2009 : 10.00 – 1.00 pm

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

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1. In the *Protagoras* why cannot Socrates allow that agents might fail to do what they judge to be best, through desiring to do something else more?
2. Can Socrates justify his claim in the *Gorgias* that orators and tyrants 'do just about nothing they want to' (466e)?
3. 'The contract theory of justice put forward by Glaucon in *Republic* Book 2 is at once adequate and realistic.' Discuss.
4. EITHER (a) 'The tripartition of the soul in *Republic* Book 4 adds nothing that is explanatory to a recognition of the existence of irrational desires.' Discuss.  
OR (b) 'The distinction between knowledge and belief in *Republic* Book 4 commits Plato to a "two worlds theory".' Discuss.
5. Has Plato anything to say to persuade us that a cool and calculating criminal can not be happy?
6. Would Plato be right to reject all the criticisms of the theory of Forms set out at the start of the *Parmenides*?
7. Critically discuss Aristotle's use of the distinction between actuality and potentiality to explain change.
8. Why does Aristotle define soul as a first actuality? What problems arise for this conception of soul?
9. Is Aristotle's definition of knowledge in the strict sense *episteme* so rigorous that no one could ever attain knowledge?
10. Is Aristotle right to see strong analogies between thinking and seeing?
11. How does Aristotle's conception of god relate to EITHER his theory of human intellection OR his ethical theory?
12. Does Aristotle offer a coherent account of happiness?
13. What does the doctrine of the mean aim for in the discussion of virtues of character?

14. EITHER (a) Is *phronêsis* about the means or the end?  
OR (b) Evaluate Aristotle's theory of responsibility.
15. How successful is Aristotle in explaining weakness of will?  
(Akrasia)
16. Critically evaluate Aristotle's claim that friendship is essential to the good life.

**END OF PAPER**