

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0060

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Aesthetics

Monday 1 June 2009 : 2.30 – 5.30pm

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

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1. Does Plato give any good reasons to banish poets from his Republic which do not also apply to painters?
2. EITHER (a) 'It is not possible to evaluate Aristotle's account of tragedy because we have no idea what he meant by "catharsis".' Discuss.
OR (b) Does the value of tragedy consist in its capacity to improve us morally?
3. Does Hume succeed in explaining why the aesthetic preferences of good judges be taken seriously by any one else?
4. EITHER (a) Does Kant succeed in showing that the beautiful is the object of a necessary pleasure?
OR (b) How well does Kant succeed in resolving the Antinomy of Taste?
5. Describe and criticise Kant's account of the sublime.
6. Is what Schiller suggests as 'aesthetic education' too moralistic?
7. What, according to Schopenhauer, is the significance of aesthetic experience?
8. Does Nietzsche succeed in showing that the meaning of life is essentially aesthetic?
9. EITHER (a) Is Croce right that artistic expressions elicit intuitions which confer true understanding?
OR (b) What, according to Collingwood, is the truth expressed by art?
10. EITHER (a) If a work of art is expressive, must it have properties other than merely physical ones?
OR (b) What, if anything, do we learn from the effective representation of objects of imagination?
11. Does a painting have to resemble that which it purports to depict?

12. 'Emotional responses to fiction are paradoxical only if we assume that emotions involve beliefs; since this assumption is false, there is no "paradox of fiction".' Discuss.
13. Is there only one correct interpretation of a work of art?
14. EITHER (a) Could the fact that a literary work is largely false ever be relevant to its evaluation as art?
OR (b) Is the moral evaluation of a work of art of aesthetic relevance?

END OF PAPER