

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY  
for Internal Students

MARX

Thursday 16th September 1999  
10.00 – 13.00

Answer THREE questions

1. What does Marx mean by ‘alienation’ or ‘estrangement’? In what ways are people alienated in capitalism, and what reason, if any, is there to think that they would not be alienated under communism?
2. Critically evaluate Marx’s distinction between ‘political emancipation’ and ‘human emancipation’.
3. What does Marx mean by calling religion ‘the opium of the people’?
4. What is the relation, if any, between Marx's philosophical materialism and his materialist conception of history?
5. What is Marx's attitude to morality?
6. Why does Marx draw a distinction between the base and the superstructure of a society? Is his distinction coherent?
7. Could it be rational to engage in revolutionary struggle to bring about a communist revolution?
8. Critically evaluate Marx’s claim that there is a tendency for the forces of production to develop over time.
9. EITHER a) What, in Marx’s economic theory, is the “transformation problem”? What is its significance?  
OR b) Does Marx have a good argument to show that the rate of profit in capitalism will fall over time?
10. What, according to Marx, explains why capitalists in general are able to make profits? Are there any good reasons for accepting Marx’s explanation?

11. What, in your view, are the strongest arguments against the labour theory of value? Are they convincing?
12. Explain one or more ways in which Marx's thought is influenced by Hegel.

END OF PAPER