

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY
for Internal Students

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Thursday 16th September 1999
10.00 – 13.00

Answer THREE questions

1. In so far as one is an egalitarian, should one prefer equality of welfare or equality of resources?
2. Can self-ownership be reconciled with equality?
3. Are inequalities in wealth justified whenever they emerge through voluntary transactions from a just initial distribution?
4. What is prioritarianism? Is it to be preferred to egalitarianism?
5. Under what conditions, if any, can one justifiably acquire private rights of ownership over land in the 'State of Nature'?
6. Does justice require that the talented refrain from seeking or accepting jobs and salaries that will make them much better off than the average person?
7. EITHER (a) What considerations, if any, can be offered in support of Rawls's difference principle?
OR (b) Explain and assess the construction of Rawls's original position.
8. EITHER (a) What does Rawls mean by 'political liberalism'? Is it achievable?
OR (b) Does the fact of reasonable pluralism justify the move from comprehensive liberalism to political liberalism?
9. Can international justice be developed from a generalization of principles of justice adopted at a national level?
10. EITHER (a) When, if ever, are you under a duty to obey the state?

OR (b) Am I under a special obligation to obey the laws of my own country?

11. EITHER (a) Can an undemocratic government be legitimate?

OR (b) Do democratic governments make better decisions than dictatorships? How does this question bear on the justification of democracy?

12. Does either communitarianism or feminism pose a significant challenge to liberalism?

END OF PAPER