

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY OLD REGULATIONS
for Internal Students

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Thursday, 14 September 2000: 10.00 - 1.00

Answer THREE questions.

1. Can a libertarian explain the origins of individual rights to private property?
2. 'A transfer is just if and only if it is voluntary.' Discuss with reference to Nozick's Entitlement Theory of Justice in Holdings.
3. What is the role of the 'primary goods' in Rawls's theory of justice?
4. EITHER (a) 'In Rawls's Original Position it is rational to choose utilitarian principles of justice.' Discuss.
OR (b) Does Rawls rely on the assumption that all hypothetical contracts have binding force?
5. How would you characterise the dispute between liberals and communitarians? Can either position be defended?
6. 'We live in a perfectionist political society. Neutrality is impossible.' Discuss.
7. Explain and assess Rawls's notion of an overlapping consensus.
8. EITHER (a) Are there good reasons for preferring equality of resources to equality of welfare?
OR (b) Does the distinction between choice and chance help illuminate the requirements of distributive justice?

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9. EITHER (a) How should an egalitarian respond to the 'levelling down' objection?

OR (b) 'It is not important that everyone should have the same. But it is important that everyone should have enough.' Discuss.

10. How should the Principle of Fairness be formulated? Does it solve the problem of political obligation?

11. Is there any plausible form of social contract theory?

12. EITHER (a) How appropriate is it to use Condorcet's probabilistic argument to defend democracy?

OR (b) 'The mere fact that I am eligible to vote means that I have a duty to obey laws that have been passed by democratic majorities.'
Discuss.

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