

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**M.A. EXAMINATIONS 2006**

for Internal Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Political Philosophy**

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. EITHER (a) Does Rawls's method of reflective equilibrium amount to any improvement upon intuitionism?  
  
OR (b) What is the role of the 'primary goods' in Rawls's theory of justice? What are the strengths and weaknesses of using the concept of primary goods?
2. EITHER (a) Has Rawls's formulated the correct principles of social justice?  
  
OR (b) Is 'the basic structure' the appropriate 'subject of justice'?
3. EITHER (a) How should liberalism be formulated?  
  
OR (b) Critically discuss the distinction between political and comprehensive liberalism.
4. EITHER (a) Does perfectionism provide an acceptable middle ground between liberalism and communitarianism?  
  
OR (b) Is communitarianism anything more than a criticism of liberalism?
5. EITHER (a) To what alleged defects in Rawls's theory of justice is Dworkin's theory of equality a possible response? How successful is it?  
  
OR (b) Does justice require that expensive tastes should be compensated?
6. Explain the distinctions between equality, priority and sufficiency. Are there reasons to favour any of these views over any others?
7. EITHER (a) What does Nozick's 'Wilt Chamberlain' argument show?  
  
OR (b) Can a libertarian defend individual rights to private property?

8. How plausible is it to argue that the only moral foundation for political obligation is consent?

9. Can a government legitimately pass laws to bind future generations?

10. On what basis, if any, can a state's right to punish be defended?

11. Is 'left-libertarianism' coherent? Is it plausible?