

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**M.Phil. EXAMINATION**  
for Internal Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Philosophy of History**

Wednesday, 10 May 2006: 10.00 – 13.00

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following **ELEVEN** questions, avoiding overlap in their answers, also between papers.

1. How should we understand Kant's 'Idea of a Universal History'?
2. Explain why Hegel thinks of his account of history as a 'theodicy'.
3. Can historical materialism explain the career of Marx?
4. 'Nietzsche's concept of genealogy has nothing to do with history.' Discuss.
5. Does explanation in history differ from explanation in science?
6. How useful to the historian is Collingwood's logic of question and answer?
7. 'To carry back to distant centuries the ideas of the century in which one lives is of all sources of error the most fertile' (Montesquieu). Is this indeed a source of error? If so, how far can historians avoid it?
8. Should historians try to recover the intentions of the agents they study?
9. 'Grand narratives are fictions, but history cannot do without them.' Discuss.
10. Can functional explanations contribute anything to our understanding of historical events?
11. 'The goal of history should be to improve our understanding of ourselves.' Do you agree?

**END OF PAPER**