

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS 2001
for internal students

THE PHILOSOPHY OF ARISTOTLE

Monday 14th May 2001: 10:00 – 1:00

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions. Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1. What makes a primary substance primary in the Categories? What problems might be raised about substance that the account of primary substance in the Categories would be unable to answer?
2. Assess Aristotle's rejection of determinism, with regard to either (a) his discussion of the sea battle in *De Interpretatione* 9, or (b) his discussion of chance in *Physics* Book II, or both.
3. Explain Aristotle's argument in *Posterior Analytics* I.19-23 that there cannot be syllogistic chains of infinite length.
4. Does Aristotle's explanation of nature (*physis*) in the *Physics* succeed in distinguishing it from art (*techne*)?
5. 'When the whole changes without anything perceptible remaining as the same substratum, but the way the seed changes entirely into blood, water into air, or air entirely into water, then, when we have this sort of thing, it is a case of generation' (*On Generation and Corruption* I.4). Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

6. What does Aristotle believe happens when I see the colour red? Why might this question be of interest for assessing the contemporary relevance of Aristotle's theory of perception?
7. How, and how successfully, does Aristotle show that his notion of a universal is preferable to Plato's Theory of Forms?
8. In *Metaphysics* XII.9 Aristotle concludes that god is thought thinking about thinking. What does Aristotle's claim mean? What is his argument for it?
9. To what extent does the function argument in *Nicomachean Ethics* I.7 depend on Aristotle's theory of soul as laid out in the *De Anima*?

10. Explain the differences Aristotle draws between the different types of friendship.
11. In what sense does Aristotle regard human beings as political animals? Is his view correct?
12. Did Aristotle believe in the existence of natural rights?

END OF PAPER