

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

M.Phil. EXAMINATION
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Existentialism

Wednesday, 9 May 2007: 10.00 – 13.00

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

1. On what basis, if any, can Kierkegaard's view of the ethical be defended?
2. How should Kierkegaard's notion of an 'existence-relation to truth' be understood?
3. Does Kierkegaard regard religious faith as incomprehensible? If so, how can he recommend it? If not, how is it to be comprehended?
4. Was Heidegger right to claim against Husserl that phenomenology must take an ontological turn?
5. Discuss critically Heidegger's handling of the problems of epistemology.
6. What is Heidegger's theory of death, and what role does it play in his broader account of Dasein?
7. Is bad faith paradoxical?
8. How, on Sartre's account, is 'original temporality' distinguished from 'psychic temporality'?
9. Does Sartre justify his account of the *pour-sois* (for-itself) concrete relations with others?
10. Should Merleau-Ponty's account of freedom be preferred to that of Sartre?
11. Is the body, on Merleau-Ponty's account, a material object?
12. What, if anything, distinguishes Merleau-Ponty's concept of 'pre-objective experience' from the empiricist's conception of experience?
13. Why is discussion of affective states so prominent in the writings of existentialist philosophers?

END OF PAPER