

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS 2001
for internal students

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HOBBS

Monday 14th May 2001: 10:00 – 1:00

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

1. 'Hobbesian moral theory assumes that our obligations to others are all generated by our own voluntary actions; but this is not a plausible theory of obligation.' Discuss.
2. Evaluate Hobbes's account of the nature and value of political liberty.
3. Does Hobbes establish the reasonableness of behaving justly?
4. Does Hobbes succeed in justifying obedience to the state?
5. Evaluate Hobbes's account of sovereignty.
6. Was Hobbes right to claim that a state of nature would be a state of 'warre'?
7. How far can a Hobbesian Commonwealth really be a Christian Commonwealth?
8. 'Regarding "Laws of Nature", Hobbes fails to give a convincing account of what they are, how they can be known, and why they should be followed.' Discuss.
9. 'The rational pursuit of self-interest is a deadly threat to the authority of the state, not a foundation of it.' Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

10. Evaluate Hobbes's account of human action.
11. What is the relation between Hobbes's metaphysics and his political philosophy?
12. Critically examine Hobbes's account of sensation.

END OF PAPER

