

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS 2001  
for internal students

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MARX

Monday 14th May 2001: 10:00 – 1:00

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

1. What, for Marx, is the relation between alienation and private property?
2. How compelling is Marx's criticism of the system of liberal rights?
3. What, according to Marx, are the chief defects of all previous forms of materialism and idealism? How does he propose to overcome these defects?
4. Does historical materialism give sufficient weight to the role of individual choice in determining the course of history?
5. Why might it be thought necessary to appeal to the device of functional explanation in order to render historical materialism consistent? Is this a strength or weakness of the theory?
6. What does it mean for the economic structure to 'fetter' the productive forces?
7. What is the labour theory of value intended to explain? Does it succeed?
8. How important is the 'transformation problem' to Marxist economics? Does the problem have a solution?

PLEASE TURN OVER

9. Critically examine Marx's account of the transition from capitalism to communism.
10. Is there a genuine distinction between utopian and scientific socialism?
11. Did Marx have good reason for refusing to describe capitalism as unjust?
12. Could there be a Marxist aesthetics?

END OF PAPER

