

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS 2001
for internal students

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Wednesday 16th May 2001: 10:00 – 1:00

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

1. Evaluate Augustine's contribution to the question of whether freedom and determinism are compatible.
2. According to Augustine, the first sin had a `deficient,' rather than `efficient' cause. What does Augustine mean by this? Does it enable him to explain why, in spite of the fact that everything God created was good, sin entered the world?
3. Critically analyse the views of Boethius on EITHER divine foreknowledge OR eternity.
4. Critically discuss Boethius' claim that the unity of God is grounded substantially, while the plurality of the divine persons is grounded in relation(s).
5. Was Eriugena a pantheist?
6. Anselm considered that freedom is the power to preserve justice for its own sake. Assess this view.

PLEASE TURN OVER

7. What exactly, if anything, is wrong with the version of Anselm's ontological argument in chapter 2 of the Proslogion?
8. `The sole function of the universal is logical.' Discuss this opinion in the context of Abelard's metaphysics.
9. Is Aquinas right to think that prime matter is pure potentiality?
10. `Aquinas' official view is that material things are individuated by their matter. But what Aquinas in fact holds, though he'd never put it that way, is that the principle of individuation, for material as well as immaterial things, is (substantial) form.' Discuss.
11. Assess Scotus' famous 'formal distinction'.

END OF PAPER