

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**  
**M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2004**  
**for internal students**

**AESTHETICS**

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

1. What, if anything, does art have to do with freedom?
2. 'Philosophy of art must be systematic in form, and must show how the arts themselves form a system.' Discuss.
3. Is it important to the proper understanding of a poem that one knows what it meant to the poet?
4. 'It may be true that we cannot keep the aesthetic and the ethical apart, but that does not prevent us from saying how they differ.' Discuss.
5. When we see x in y are we doing anything other than seeing x as resembling y?
6. Can a person's tastes be supported by reasons? Is it important that they should be?
7. Is there any interesting analogy between art and play that does not either trivialize art, or overvalue play?
8. Are sculptures and drawings any less universals than poems or plays? Are poems or plays any less particulars than sculptures or drawings?
9. Just what is a person who is insensitive to the beauty of nature insensitive to?
10. 'Most conceptual art is of no cognitive or aesthetic value, and is therefore valueless.' Discuss.
11. 'To describe music as melancholy or poignant may be picturesque, but it can hardly be true.' Discuss.
12. Is it rational to be emotionally moved by fictional narratives?

**END OF PAPER**