

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2004
for internal students

ETHICS

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

1. What is the relation between moral reasons and an agent's subjective motivations?
2. Is the distinction between virtue and talent no more than verbal?
3. 'No philosopher has ever established that freedom of action exists. Therefore philosophers must give an account of morality without appeal to such freedom.' Discuss.
4. How, if at all, might the fact that we made a promise give us a reason for keeping it?
5. Are moral utterances a form of fiction?
6. 'For a person to be morally responsible is simply for them to be a proper object of rational criticism and appraisal.' Discuss.
7. 'To be at all credible, a theory of moral obligation must explain how the obligatoriness of an action gives added reason for performing it.' Discuss.
8. 'If there is moral knowledge, then at most one of the diverse moral codes in history is right. So morality cannot be a matter of knowledge.' Discuss.
9. Are there moral dilemmas? Explain the significance of your answer for the dictum 'ought implies can'.
10. 'It is not profitable for us to do moral philosophy until we have an adequate philosophy of psychology, in which we are conspicuously lacking.' Discuss.
11. Is the notion of a categorical imperative necessary to bring the appropriate objectivity to morality?
12. 'Any form of consequentialism requires values to be commensurable. But they are not. So consequentialism is false.' Discuss.
13. What moral significance, if any, is there to the distinction between an action and an omission?

END OF PAPER