

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2004
for internal students

EXISTENTIALISM

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

1. 'When the question of truth is raised subjectively, reflection is directed subjectively to the nature of the individual's relationship: if only the mode of this relationship is in the truth, the individual is in the truth, *even if he should happen to be thus related to what is not true*' (Kierkegaard). Discuss.
2. Assess Kierkegaard's account of the strengths and weaknesses of the life of the seducer portrayed in the first volume of *Either/Or*.
3. Why does Kierkegaard attach so much importance to indirect communication?
4. 'Sartre's theory of the emotions is at best an account of malformed emotion.' Discuss.
5. Explain and evaluate Sartre's claim that nothingness is the origin of negative judgement.
6. Outline and evaluate Sartre's treatment of the 'problem of other minds'.
7. How, if at all, does Merleau-Ponty's account of freedom improve upon Sartre's?
8. Does Merleau-Ponty's account of embodiment avoid dualism?
9. Critically assess Merleau-Ponty's notion of a 'purely intentional object'.
10. Outline and evaluate Marcel's argument for believing that our life is 'given to us'.
11. Does Jaspers succeed in showing that the self exists only in 'communication'?
12. How should 'existentialist philosophy' be defined?

END OF PAPER