

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2004
for internal students

GREEK PHILOSOPHY FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO ARISTOTLE

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

1. How far did the Milesians succeed in breaking away from early mythology? What would be the significance of such a breaking away?
2. 'You cannot traverse an infinity of actually existing divisions, but you can [traverse an infinity] of potentially existing ones' (Aristotle, *Physics* VIII.8, 263b3-6). Assess this response to Zeno's paradox.
3. Explain and assess the *Protagoras*' arguments against the possibility of weakness of will.
4. What, if any, role is played by knowledge of the Form of Equal in the perception of two sticks as being equal in length?
5. In the *Theaetetus*, in what sense, if any, is Protagoras shown to refute himself?
6. 'The loosening of each thing from everything else is the destruction of all statements; for it is because of the interweaving of the Forms with one another that we come to have statement' (*Sophist* 259e). Why is the interweaving of Forms necessary for 'Theaetetus sits' and 'Theaetetus flies'?
7. Are there important differences in Plato's attitude toward the rule of law in the *Republic*, the *Statesman* and the *Laws*?
8. 'But as for those who believe in the Ideas, they at the same time make the Ideas universal and again treat them as individuals' (Aristotle, *Metaphysics* Book XIII). Discuss.
9. According to Aristotle, does the rain fall in order to make the corn grow?
10. 'All that happens when Aristotle sees red is that he is "appeared to redly" by an actually red object, and is so appeared to because the object is red. This gives the sense in which he is reddened by the red object.' Discuss.
11. 'Call no man happy until he is dead.' Evaluate Aristotle's response to this thesis.
12. Is Aristotle right to regard human beings as political animals?

END OF PAPER