

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2004
for internal students

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

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

1. Is there any conception of positive liberty that can be cogently defended against the charge of paternalism?
2. What is the relationship between an 'overlapping consensus' and a 'veil of ignorance' in Rawls' theory?
3. What is meant by 'self-ownership'? What consequences, if any, does it have for distributive justice?
4. Does justice require the state to compensate for the effects of good and bad luck?
5. Does democracy ensure the protection of civil liberties? If so, is this a sufficient defence of democracy as the best form of government?
6. Is consent the source of political obligation?
7. Does communitarianism have a plausible conception of community?
8. 'The case for treating people as political equals depends on the claim that people are morally equal; but as that claim has never been established, neither has the case for treating them as political equals.' Discuss.
9. Are property rights a matter of convention?
10. 'Only if justice is a matter of mutual advantage, will it be inherently against reason to commit injustice.' Discuss.
11. What rights, if any, do nations have?
12. Is there a determinate set of ends which any government should serve? What depends on the answer?

END OF PAPER