

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS
for internal students

Pre-Socratic Philosophy

10:00 - 13:00, Monday 13th May, 2002

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?
2. Aristotle says that Xenophanes was 'the first to postulate a unity.' How does Xenophanes' monism differ from that of the early materialists?
3. 'Things taken together are wholes and not wholes, something which is being brought together and brought apart, which is in tune and out of tune; out of all things there comes a unity, and out of a unity all things' (Heraclitus Fr. 10). Discuss.
4. If Parmenides' Way of Truth is true, why did he write the Way of Seeming?
5. 'For if it were infinite it would be one; for if it were two, the two could not be infinite but would be limited by one another' (Melissus fr. 6). Does Melissus improve on Parmenides' account of what is?
6. How should Zeno's paradox of the arrow be reconstructed? Can it be solved?

PLEASE TURN OVER

7. 'In everything a portion of everything.' What did Anaxagoras mean by this? Is it defensible?
8. How far does Empedocles offer an account of natural selection?
9. By convention sweet, by convention bitter, by convention hot, by convention cold, by convention colour: but in reality atoms and void' (Democritus Fr. 9). Discuss.
10. 'Man is the measure of all things; of the things that are that they are, of the things that are not, that they are not.' What did Protagoras mean? Is his theory reasonable?

END OF PAPER