

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MPHIL EXAMINATIONS

for internal students

The Philosophy of Reid

10:00-13:00, Wednesday 15th May, 2002

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions.

Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1. The theory of ideas, like the Trojan horse, had a specious appearance both of innocence and beauty; but if those philosophers had known that it carried in its belly death and destruction to all science and common sense, they would not have broken down their walls to give it admittance. (*Inquiry into the Human Mind*, Ch. 5, § 8) Explain and assess both what Reid finds initially attractive 'in the theory of ideas' and what he takes to be its dangers.
2. Does Reid give a coherent account of perception in the *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*?
3. '[Sensation] hath no object distinct from the act itself' (*Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man* p. 229). Explain and discuss.
4. How does Reid try to capture the distinction between primary and secondary qualities in the *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*? Is he successful?

5. Reid says that the first principles of contingent truth are self-evident. Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

6. Outline and evaluate Reid's account of testimony.
7. Does Reid succeed in showing that taste is an intellectual power of the mind?
8. What is Reid's account of active power? Does he demonstrate successfully how one might acquire an idea of such?
9. Does Reid establish that justice is a natural virtue?
10. What role does Reid assign the notion of passion in his theory of the will?

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