

CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II  
Group B Philosophy

---

Monday 31 May 2004 1.30 to 4.30

---

Paper B1

PLATO

Answer **three** questions including at least **one** from **Section A** and at least **one** from **Section B**.

*You are not required to translate into English any of the passages quoted in the questions that you attempt, although you may if you wish make use of them when giving your answers.*

**It is important to write good English.**

**Irrelevance will be penalised.**

**You may not start to read the questions  
printed on the subsequent pages of this  
question paper until instructed that you  
may do so by the Invigilator**

## SECTION A

1 What contribution does the 'Digression' (172a–177c) make to the *Theaetetus* as a whole?

2 How far do Socrates' criticisms of Protagoras in the *Theaetetus* distinguish between flux-based and flux-independent interpretations of his measure doctrine?

3 Οἷόν τε οὖν ἀληθείας τυχεῖν, ᾧ μηδὲ οὐσίας;

*Theaetetus* 186c7

Why, according to Socrates, is perception incapable of hitting on being and truth?

4 ὅταν γάρ τις ἀντὶ καλοῦ αἰσχροὺν ἢ ἀντὶ αἰσχροῦ καλὸν δοξάζῃ, τότε ὡς ἀληθῶς ψευδῆ δοξάζει.

*Theaetetus* 189c5–7

How does this 'other-judging' solution to the falsity problem fail? Are the subsequently considered solutions meant to be immune to the same objection, and if so why?

5 Do the 'Dream' theory and its refutation rely on a coherent understanding of 'elements', 'parts' and 'wholes'?

## SECTION B

6 Is the theory of Forms let down by the young Socrates of the *Parmenides*? If so, what should he have said in its defence?

7 Does Socrates in the *Cratylus* adequately explain and substantiate his thesis that a name is a 'tool' (*ὄργανον*) with a certain didactic function?

8 What is the method of Collection and Division? Is it anything different from the definitional project that Plato had pursued throughout his dialogues?

9 How important a virtue is piety in Plato's eyes, and why?

10 How far were Plato's views and arguments concerning immortality changed by his conclusion that the soul is tripartite? (*You may, if you wish, confine your answer to two or more specific dialogues.*)

11 What progress did Plato make with the comparative evaluation of different kinds of pleasure? (*You may, if you wish, confine your answer to one or more specific dialogues.*)

12 How optimistic is Plato about the possibility of wise rulers, or about the possibility of a well-run society even without them? (*You may, if you wish, confine your answer to one or more specific dialogues.*)

13 Does Plato sincerely maintain that there could be a good and scientific rhetoric? What would its features be?

14 Is the dialogue form essential to Plato's philosophical method?