# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## CLASSICAL TRIPOS   Part II
## Group B   Philosophy

Tuesday 13 June 2006      9 to 12

Paper B2

ARISTOTLE'S MORAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

*Answer* **three** *questions.*

**Candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.**

**Irrelevance will be penalised.**

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
20 Page Booklet x 1
Rough Work Pad x 1

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
None

**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**

1   Explain and evaluate Aristotle's claim that a happy (εὐδαίμων) person will be 'self-sufficient' (αὐτάρκης).

2   Aristotle claims that (i) in any given circumstance, the virtuous action is whatever the virtuous person would do; and (ii) in any given circumstance, the virtuous person will do whatever action is virtuous. Is his account of virtuous conduct therefore viciously circular?

3   Examine the role of pleasure and pain in the development of a virtuous character.

4   καὶ πρότερον δὲ τῇ φύσει πόλις ἢ οἰκία καὶ ἕκαστος ἡμῶν ἐστιν.

  'And the city is by nature prior to the household and to each of us individually.'

*Politics* I 2, 1253a18-19

Explain this principle and examine its role in Aristotle's political thought.

5   Is Aristotle's recommendation in *EN* X 7 that we should strive 'as far as possible to be immortal' compatible with the rest of the *Nicomachean Ethics*?

6   Explain and evaluate Aristotle's recommendations for the size, location and layout of an ideal city.

7   Does Aristotle have a persuasive account of what distinguishes a self-controlled (ἐγκρατής) person from a person who is not self-controlled (ἀκρατής)?

8   Does Aristotle have a plausible account of constitutional change?

9   'The only thing wrong with Aristotle's doctrine of natural slavery is that there are in fact no natural slaves.' Discuss.

10 Critically evaluate Aristotle's claim that virtue lies in a 'mean'.

**11** How successfully does Aristotle's ideal city avoid the mistakes he identifies in Plato's *Republic*?

**12** Does Aristotle's claim at the beginning of the *Nicomachean Ethics* that a single goal is set for human life rest on a logical fallacy?

**13** In what ways is Aristotle's political philosophy constrained by parochial assumptions?

END OF PAPER