

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Tuesday 26 May 2015

09.00 – 12.00

Paper 3

ETHICS

*Answer **three** questions only.*

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer. If you are answering an either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Answer Book x 1

Rough Work Pad

**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. EITHER (a) What role does the social utility of the practice of promising play in explaining promissory obligation?

OR (b) 'Only contractualists can adequately explain the nature of promissory obligation.' Discuss.

2. What are the limits of beneficence?

3. Is the risk of human extinction the worst thing about climate change?

4. 'If I'm not certain whether or not abortion is permissible, it would be morally reckless to have one.' Discuss.

5. Is practical reason merely the part of theoretical reason that is concerned with ethics?

6. Are any non-instrumental desires irrational?

7. EITHER (a) 'One of contractualism's principal attractions is that it allows us to avoid utilitarianism's problems with aggregating benefits.' Discuss.

OR (b) How should morality weigh one person against many?

8. 'We ought to follow those moral principles we would agree to endorse.' Discuss.

9. 'Virtues are irrelevant to moral behaviour. Morality should focus on situations, not on character.' Discuss.

10. Does consent make harm all right?

END OF PAPER