

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

MES 205: Introduction to European History, Politics and Philosophy

COURSE CODE : MEST0205

UNIT VALUE : 1.00

DATE : 12-MAY-03

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

**MES 0205 INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN HISTORY, POLITICS AND
PHILOSOPHY**

- Answer **THREE** questions.
- Questions must be attempted from **THREE** sections.
- Do **NOT** answer a question on the topic of your assessed course essay.
- Do **NOT** draw substantially on the same material for more than one answer.
- Please use different examination books for each question.

SECTION A

1. 'The purpose of the State is always the same: to limit the individual, to tame him, to subordinate him, to subjugate him.' Discuss critically this statement using different theories of the State.
2. Is it possible any longer to distinguish between Liberalism and Socialism?
3. Are all modern political parties essentially catch-all parties?
4. Is there inevitably a trade-off between electoral fairness and strong and stable government?

SECTION B

5. 'If we want to understand civil authority, we need to distinguish there being a government exercising civil authority from two contrasting things: on the one side, from large-scale voluntary co-operative associations, and on the other from a place's being quite under the control of a smooth sophisticated mafia.' (Anscombe, 'On the Source of the Authority of the State'.) Discuss.
6. In what sense does Rousseau define a form of association by means of which each united with all 'remains as free as before'?
7. 'The idea of equality as used in statements of fact and in statements of political principles turns into either paradox or platitude.' Discuss.

TURN OVER

8. *Either* (a) 'The striking feature of the utilitarian view of justice is that it does not matter, except indirectly, how this sum of satisfactions is distributed among individuals any more than it matters, except indirectly, how one man distributes his satisfaction over time.' (Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*) Explain and discuss.
- Or* (b) Elucidate and evaluate Rawls's following claim: 'Injustice is simply inequalities that are not to the benefit of all.'

SECTION C

9. Does Descartes demonstrate that he has knowledge of anything beyond his own existence?
10. What, if anything, makes it true that people are morally responsible for their actions?
11. Is there any reason why I should not treat others merely as means to my own ends?
12. Is magic rational?

SECTION D

13. 'I cannot think it's in the public interest to maintain for the emergency of war such a vast multitude of people [i.e. a standing army] who trouble and disturb the peace.' (Thomas More) Discuss.
14. To what extent did the edict of Nantes provide equal rights for the Huguenots and the Catholics in France?
15. Bodin claimed that a 'prince is not subject to the law'. Are there no limits to princely rule according to Bodin's theory?
16. 'For enlightenment all that is needed is freedom to make public use of one's reason.' (Kant) Discuss.

END OF PAPER