

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 : 03–MAY–06

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

**MEST0205 INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN HISTORY, LAW, POLITICS
AND PHILOSOPHY**

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

SECTION A (Law)

1. ‘Western legal theories have been mainly preoccupied with questions relating to the fundamental nature of Law. However, much less attention has been paid to other aspects such as the “functions” of Law.’ Discuss.
2. In Europe the principle of the rule of law has been implemented through either the concept of Parliamentary Sovereignty or that of Constitutional Supremacy. Discuss the reasons for such concepts and the differences and similarities between them.
3. ‘Different national perspectives on the use of force clearly highlight the weaknesses of international law.’ Discuss.
4. The European Court of Justice famously defined the EU as a ‘new international legal order’. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?

SECTION B (Philosophy)

5. Does Descartes succeed in showing that our belief in an external world is justified?
6. What conditions need to be met, in order for a human action to count as freely performed?
7. Why be moral?
8. ‘Cultural relativism offers the best explanation of differing standards of rationality.’ Do you agree?

TURN OVER

SECTION C (Politics)

9. Society is full of powerful and competing interests. In whose interests, then, does the state function?
10. 'Ideologies are competitions over providing plans for public policy. Yet it would be a mistake to assume that conservatism or socialism are absolutely identical to what conservative and socialist parties stand for.' Discuss.
11. To what extent are political parties today 'catch-all' parties?
12. To what extent is voting determined by sociological factors?

SECTION D (Political Philosophy)

13. *Either* (a) Explain and assess Rousseau's idea of the General Will.
Or (b) Are political authority and individual autonomy compatible?
14. What is equality? Is it a defensible ideal?
15. *Either* (a) What is the Veil of Ignorance? Is Rawls justified in allowing just this level of knowledge and ignorance?
Or (b) Explain and assess the reasoning which leads the parties behind the Veil of Ignorance to adopt the two principles of justice.
16. What do you take to be Nozick's best line of criticism against Rawls? Is it convincing?

SECTION E (History)

17. 'The Humanism of the Renaissance is unrelated to the Humanism of the Reformation.' Discuss.
18. Discuss Luther's arguments in respect of secular authority.
19. Discuss Hobbes' position on individual liberty in relation to the sovereign.
20. Is the Enlightenment related to the ideas of the Reformation?

END OF PAPER