M.A. EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

<u>**Aesthetics**</u>

Wednesday, 28 May: 10.00 – 1.00.

Answer <u>THREE</u> questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1.   'Poetry contributes nothing to our knowledge of ethical matters.' Assess the views of EITHER Plato OR Aristotle OR both on this issue.

2.   Do Hume's reflections about a standard of taste suggest how opposed aesthetic responses to the same things might be reconciled?

3.   Kant claims that the pleasure we take in the beautiful is a necessary pleasure. Is this claim defensible?

4.   Is it paradoxical that tragic works of art are positively valued?

5.   EITHER   (a) Does sensitivity to the richness of art require the possession of a developed emotional repertoire? If so, why? If not, why not?

       OR   (b) Is it possible to feel emotions about what we know is fictional?

6.   EITHER   (a) Does the essentially historical nature of art ensure the failure of all attempts to define it?

       OR   (b) Do functional definitions of art always exclude some things which are art? If so, must this be an objection to functional definitions of art?

7.   'If paintings were universals rather than particulars, there would be no worthwhile distinction to be drawn between an original and a good copy.' Discuss.

8.   'Justifiable censorship of art must depend on the work or works in question promoting something socially harmful. Yet, of their very nature, the arts promote nothing. Therefore ….' Evaluate this argument.

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9.   'If art proper is not any kind of craft, it cannot be representative. For representation is a matter of skill, a craft of a special kind' (Collingwood). Discuss.

10.   'Two things can share all their manifest properties while one is a profound work of art, the other a piece of mediocrity.' Discuss.

11.   What, if anything, distinguishes judgements of the sublime from other aesthetic judgements?

12.   Does a work's sentimentality always detract from its value as art?

END OF PAPER

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