

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003
for internal students

ETHICS

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions. Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1. In determining what one ought to do, should one refrain from aggregating the claims of different individuals?
2. 'One's actual intentions are relevant to the question of whether one is to blame for what one has done, but they are irrelevant to the question of the permissibility of what one has done.' Discuss.
3. Can the principle that 'ought implies can' be deployed in a sound argument for the impossibility of moral dilemmas?
4. 'Given that the basic role of moral judgements is to guide action, there cannot be any moral knowledge.' Explain and assess this claim.
5. If one has a reason for action, must it be possible to arrive at this reason by a sound deliberative route from one's existing motivational set?
6. Can one's self-interest, when properly understood, come into conflict with the exercise of the moral virtues?
7. Can we be morally responsible for what is not under our control?
8. What, if anything, is the philosophical significance of moral diversity across history and culture?
9. Should one's moral deliberations always proceed from an impartial point of view?
10. What, if anything, is wrong with Morality?
11. 'The problem with the best kind of rule consequentialism is that it alienates us from the true justification of our actions.' Discuss.
12. 'Thinking about right and wrong is thinking about what we do in terms that could be justified to others and that they could not reasonably reject' (Scanlon). Discuss.
13. Is one's duty not to kill a new born baby any less stringent than one's duty not to kill an adult?

END OF PAPER