

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003
for internal students

EXISTENTIALIST PHILOSOPHY FROM KIERKEGAARD

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

1. Discuss Kierkegaard's use of pseudonyms in his writings.
2. Outline and discuss Kierkegaard's opposition to the Hegelian 'System'.
3. What, for Kierkegaard, is the 'teleological suspension of the ethical'? How, if at all, are such 'suspensions' justified?
4. How is Kierkegaard's notion of 'subjective truth' best understood?
5. 'The necessary and sufficient condition for a knowing consciousness to be knowledge of its object, is that it be consciousness of itself as being that knowledge' (Sartre). Discuss.
6. Is Sartre's concept of bad faith a psychological concept or a moral concept?
7. 'The freedom Sartre accords us makes no difference to what we are able to do, and is therefore not worth possessing.' Discuss.
8. What sort of moral thinking, if any, does Sartre's aversion to the 'spirit of seriousness' permit?
9. Outline and discuss de Beauvoir's existentialist account of the oppression of women.
10. What is the significance of Merleau-Ponty's critique of objective thought?
11. Explain and discuss Merleau-Ponty's criticisms of the Cartesian *cogito*.
12. What common ground do 'existentialist' thinkers share? Discuss with reference to two or more existentialists.

END OF PAPER