

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003
for internal students

MARX

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

1. Does Marx show that there are circumstances in which it is rational for the workers to bring about a revolution?
2. Why has it been thought necessary to appeal to functional explanation to render historical materialism coherent? Is there a genuine problem about the coherence of historical materialism, and if so, can an appeal to functional explanation provide an adequate solution to it?
3. Does Marx show that there is a tendency for productive forces to develop?
4. 'The idea that all profit derives from the exploitation of labour is no more justified than the idea that all profit derives from the exploitation of corn.' Discuss.
5. How should we understand Marx's distinction between political emancipation and human emancipation?
6. Did Marx think that communism would be a just form of society?
7. Why did Marx think that the nature of capitalism could not be adequately explained by an idealist theory of history?
8. 'Insofar as the state admits the existence of *social* defects, it seeks their causes either in *natural laws*, which no human power can command, or in *private life*, which is independent of the state, or in the *unsuitableness of the administration*, which is dependent on it' (*The King of Prussia and Social Reform*). What causes does Marx believe the state is failing to acknowledge and how does he defend his view?
9. Assess Marx's criticisms of rights.
10. Does Marx's failure to confront the problem of sexual inequality significantly damage his account of human emancipation?

TURN

OVER

11. To what extent, if at all, is Marx's analysis of the development of capitalism applicable today?

12. Does Marx's theory of history require him to criticise religion as harshly as he in fact does?

END OF PAPER