

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**  
**MPHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003**  
**for internal students**

**PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY**

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

1. '[T]here is no difference, in this respect, between history and the natural sciences: both can give an account of their subject-matter only in terms of general concepts, and history can "grasp the unique individuality"' of its objects of study no more and no less than can physics or chemistry' (Hempel). Discuss.
2. 'Historical knowledge is the recreation of the thoughts of the past.' Discuss.
3. What is the role of narrative in historical explanation?
4. Is there a coherent and plausible form of historicism?
5. Does Kant offer an adequate basis for his 'speculative' philosophy of history?
6. 'Marx's theory of historical development is based on the unjustified assumption of the necessary growth of productive forces.' Discuss.
7. Why does Hegel think that his account of world history is 'the true theodicy'?
8. 'To explain a historical event is to reveal why it seemed rational to the agents involved to act as they did.' Discuss.
9. EITHER (a) Is a teleological conception of history philosophically indefensible?  
  
OR (b) Does the teleological conception of history rely on theological premises?
10. Critically evaluate Heidegger's and/or Foucault's reconstructions of Nietzsche's account of the three 'uses of history'.

END OF PAPER