

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003
for internal students

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

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

1. In what way or ways does Dworkin's theory of equality of resources address alleged difficulties with Rawls' theory of justice? How successful is it in doing so?
2. What is the relation between equality and respect?
3. Can democracy be defended on the grounds that it provides the best way of determining the common good?
4. How convincing is Rawls' distinction between comprehensive and political liberalism?
5. Is wealth a form of negative freedom?
6. Can a libertarian minimal state be defended on the grounds that it, and it alone, respects a full right of self-ownership?
7. Should laws enacted by the British one hundred years ago have any more authority over present-day residents of the United Kingdom than laws enacted by the citizens of a foreign country yesterday?
8. 'Those principles which it would be reasonable or rational for free and equal persons to adopt for the regulation of their society will not necessarily be principles of justice.'
Discuss.
9. Is one's actual consent to be governed either a necessary or a sufficient condition of an obligation to obey the laws of one's society?
10. 'Distributive justice consists of people having enough of what they need.' Discuss.
11. Does liberalism rest on an implausible theory of the self?
12. What is it for a right to be a 'natural' right? Could there be any such rights?

END OF PAPER