

BA EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (m): Nineteenth-Century German Philosophy

Wednesday, May 21st, 2003, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Answer THREE questions. You must answer questions on at least TWO philosophers. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Does Fichte succeed in 'freeing himself from the reflective metaphors of self-observation'?
2. 'I posit myself as free. In the same undivided action, I simultaneously posit other free beings' (Fichte). Discuss.
3. Was Schelling a pantheist?
4. 'That unity which is indissoluble in God must be dissoluble in man – and this constitutes the possibility of good and evil' (Schelling). Discuss.
5. Assess Hegel's argument that in scepticism consciousness experiences itself as internally contradictory.
6. Discuss critically Hegel's claim that self-consciousness 'exists only as something recognised'.
7. 'Reason is the certainty of consciousness that it is all reality.' Elucidate and evaluate this claim of Hegel's.
8. On what grounds does Hegel argue that 'Spirit must leave behind the beauty of ethical life (*Sittlichkeit*)'? Is he right?
9. Does Schopenhauer succeed in explaining how the same world can be both will and representation?
10. Why is it that Schopenhauer's will keeps most of its operations secret from the conscious mind?
11. Is Schopenhauer's pessimism justified?
12. EITHER (a) Assess Schopenhauer's account of compassion.
OR (b) Assess Schopenhauer's claims about the value of aesthetic

experience.

13. 'It is only as *an aesthetic phenomenon* that existence and the world are eternally *justified*.' How, if at all, does Nietzsche's account of tragedy bear out this thought?

14. EITHER (a) Is the judgement that a morality is enfeebling also, for Nietzsche, an assessment of its truth?
OR (b) Discuss critically Nietzsche's rejection of the value of pity.

15. Assess Nietzsche's view that consideration of eternal recurrence can be life-affirming.

16. EITHER (a) 'Nietzsche's conception of the self is vitiated by deep contradictions.' Discuss.
OR (b) Is Nietzschean self-creation compatible with determinism?

17. 'Later developments in nineteenth-century German philosophy show conclusively that Hegel's belief in Reason is unsustainable.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER