

**BA EXAMINATION 2003**

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

**PHILOSOPHY**3(b) Political Philosophy

Wednesday, May 7th, 2003, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Answer THREE questions, including at least ONE from EACH section. Candidates taking Optional Paper (p) (Marxism) may NOT attempt question 7, marked with an asterisk. Avoid overlap in your answers.

**SECTION A**

1. EITHER (a) How compelling is Plato's analogy between justice in the individual and justice in the state?  
OR (b) Does Plato's political philosophy have any relevance for contemporary politics?
2. EITHER (a) Critically analyse Aristotle's account of citizenship.  
OR (b) What did Aristotle mean when he claimed that humans are political animals? Is he right?
3. EITHER (a) Are Hobbes's laws of nature moral laws? If not, what are they?  
OR (b) What did Hobbes believe would be the causes of conflict in the state of nature? Is his analysis plausible?
4. EITHER (a) In what sense or senses do we consent to the state, in Locke's view? Does he thereby show that we are obliged to obey the government?  
OR (b) Can sense be made of Locke's argument that we can acquire unowned property by mixing our labour with it?  
OR (c) How persuasive are Locke's claims that one can acquire land by means of one's labour?
5. EITHER (a) Why does Rousseau distinguish the general will from the will of all? How clear is this distinction?  
OR (b) Does Rousseau believe that it is a matter of regret that humankind has left the state of nature?
6. EITHER (a) 'Hegel's theology determines his political philosophy.' Discuss.

- OR (b) Critically discuss Hegel's defence of private property.
- 7.\* EITHER (a) Does Marx show that the source of all profit under capitalism is the exploitation of the proletariat?  
OR (b) What, for Marx, is the relation between the productive forces and the economic structure?
8. EITHER (a) 'Mill's Liberty Principle overlooks the fact that every government has the responsibility sometimes to protect people from themselves.' Discuss.  
OR (b) Does Mill's liberalism present a satisfactory solution to the problems of sexual inequality?

## SECTION B

9. EITHER (a) What does Rawls mean by 'reflective equilibrium' and what role does it play in his argument for his two principles of justice?  
OR (b) 'People in Rawls's Original Position would not choose Rawls's two principles of justice.' Discuss.
10. What does Rawls mean by an 'overlapping consensus between reasonable conceptions of the good'? Could such a thing be achieved?
11. EITHER (a) Compare perfectionism and communitarianism. Does either view provide an attractive political prospect?  
OR (b) Discuss and assess the communitarian charge that liberalism has an inadequate understanding of the relationship between the self and its conception of the good.
12. EITHER (a) What, if anything, does Nozick's Wilt Chamberlain argument show?  
OR (b) Explain and assess the role of the 'Lockean Proviso' in Nozick's theory of justice in holdings.
13. Can there be a 'left libertarianism'?
14. 'Only the actions of other people can render me unfree.' Discuss.
15. Explain the distinction between the choice and the interest theories of rights. Which is the correct theory?
16. EITHER (a) Is it a defect in a theory of distributive justice if it has the consequence that those who are capable of work but refuse to take work offered to them nevertheless receive state benefits?  
OR (b) Are egalitarians vulnerable to the 'levelling down' objection?
17. Does Sen's theory of 'basic capabilities' provide an answer to the question of how to achieve distributive justice?

18. EITHER (a) Does the 'principle of fairness' provide an adequate account of political obligation?  
OR (b) Can any form of consent provide the basis for political obligation?
19. EITHER (a) What is the best argument in favour of democracy?  
OR (b) What is deliberative democracy? Is it an advance on other models of democracy?
20. EITHER (a) 'Any attempt to limit or suppress the free market can only lead to disaster.' Discuss.  
OR (b) Should we be permitted to sell our children?
21. Does feminism require anything more of the state than equality of opportunity?

**END OF PAPER**