

**BA EXAMINATION 2002**

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

Optional subject (g): Aesthetics

Tuesday, 14 May 2002: 10.00 – 1.00

Answer THREE questions. Candidates taking optional paper (l) Philosophy of Kant may NOT attempt either part of question 5, marked by an asterisk. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Assess Plato's critique of representation in art.
2. Does Aristotle succeed in explaining the occurrence of pleasure in *mimesis* where the subject-matter would be displeasing in real life?
3. Is Hume right to think that beauty is 'a phantasm of the senses'?
4. 'Diderot on art confuses sensibility and value.' Discuss.
- \*5. EITHER (a) Is Kant right in holding that judgements of taste claim universal agreement on the basis of a subjective feeling?  
OR (b) Evaluate Kant's resolution of the Antinomy of Taste.
6. Does Schiller show that beauty bridges the gap between nature and freedom?
7. Elucidate and evaluate Schelling's claim that art is 'the eternal organ and document' of philosophy.
8. How convincing are Collingwood's reasons for distinguishing art from craft?
9. What kind of reference does depiction require?
10. Do aesthetic judgements have truth conditions?
11. 'To recognise the expressiveness of a work of art is not to identify its aesthetic worth.' Discuss.

**TURN OVER**

12. EITHER (a) 'A forgery's value is decided by appropriately experiencing it.' Discuss.  
OR (b) Is preserving a work of art the same as preserving its effect?
13. EITHER (a) Can art be defined?  
OR (b) Could a blank canvas entitled *Untitled* be a work of art? What would explain its being a work of art?
14. EITHER (a) Is the aesthetic appreciation of nature different from that of works of art?  
OR (b) Is there knowledge of the beautiful?
15. EITHER (a) Could something be both morally repellent and aesthetically valuable?  
OR (b) 'Aesthetic evaluation of a work of art properly includes ethical assessment of the attitude it manifests.' Discuss.
16. Is sentimentality in art always blameworthy? Is it ever praiseworthy?
17. To what extent, if any, are the intentions of the author of a fictional work relevant in the interpretation of that work?
18. Are all works of art physical objects?
19. Can we feel genuine compassion for the troubles of a hobbit?
20. 'We take pleasure in tragedy by virtue of its relation to morality.' Discuss.

**END OF PAPER**