

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualifications:-

B.A. B.Sc. M.Sci.

Philosophy B2: Ethics

COURSE CODE : **PHILB002**

UNIT VALUE : **1.00**

DATE : **30-APR-04**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 Hours**

B2 Ethics

Answer THREE questions. Candidates must not answer more than two questions on Kant (Section B) or on Mill (Section C). Avoid overlap in your answers.

SECTION A

1. 'The soldier ran across the field to attract enemy fire, knowing that this effort would most probably cost him his life. His heroic thoughts were about the need to save his colleagues, and he had never believed in the possibility of an afterlife'. How, if at all, can the theory of psychological egoism account for such a case?

2. What, according to Schopenhauer, is distinctive and important about the experience of compassion? How persuasive is his account?

3. EITHER (a) 'Moral judgements must be impartial'. Critically discuss.

OR (b) Does an impartial moral standpoint prevent a moral agent from behaving towards her friends as a friend?

SECTION B

4. According to Kant, an action only has moral worth if it was done from duty. Does this imply that the good will always acts from duty?

5. State and evaluate Kant's derivation of the categorical imperative in the first section of the *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*.

6. Is the Formula of Law of Nature a mechanical algorithm for determining what duty requires? If not, what's the moral point of the formula?

7. State Kant's derivation of the prohibition of false promises from the Formula of Humanity and compare it to the derivation from the Formula of Law of Nature.

8. Kant represents the Moral Law by a system of three formulas. Explain how, if at all, they are equivalent.

9. Explain the connection between autonomy and Kant's analysis of freedom as a kind of causality.

SECTION C

10. 'Of two pleasures, if there be one to which all or almost all who have experience of both give a decided preference, irrespective of any feeling of moral obligation to prefer it, that is the more desirable pleasure'. Explain and discuss Mill's thinking here.

TURN OVER

11. How does Mill try to establish that happiness is the only thing that is desirable in itself? How convincing is his argument?

12. Mill believes that the claim that 'each person's happiness is a good to that person' provides support for the claim that 'the general happiness is a good to the aggregate of persons'. Is he right?

END OF PAPER