

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualifications:-

B.A. *B.Sc.*

Philosophy HAK1: Philosophy for Art Historians: Aesthetic Experience and Knowledge

COURSE CODE : PHILHAK1

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 17-MAY-06

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

HAK1 Aesthetic Experience and Knowledge

Answer THREE questions, at least ONE from each section. Avoid overlap in your answers.

A. Aesthetics

1. EITHER a) Why was the idea of taste a particular 'problem' for Hume? In your answer, refer both to the nature of the problem itself, and to Hume's reasons for addressing it.

OR b) Hume states that the true critic must strip his or her judgements of all prejudice? Describe some of the difficulties involved in this process, and some of the implications if the idea is followed through.
2. EITHER a) Kant states that aesthetic judgements must be 'disinterested'. What does he mean by this term, and how important is it for his theory of aesthetic judgement over all?

OR b) According to Kant's aesthetic theory, a piece of music is not a proper object for the 'aesthetic reflective judgement'. Why did he think this, and was he right?
3. We find in thinkers as seemingly divergent as Plato, Kant and Heidegger a connection between the idea of beauty and the idea of truth. Give a critical assessment of one or more of these philosophers' understanding of the connection, together with your own view of the subject. (*Do not answer on Kant if you have answered Question 2.*)
4. 'With a fake painting you're free to ask, does it go with the curtains? You can't do that with a genuine Van Gogh because it's worth millions' (John Myatt). Does the fact that a painting is an original and not a replica also contribute to its artistic and/or aesthetic value?
5. Philosophers are divided about the nature of the relation between aesthetics and ethics. In your view, is beauty, as Kant put it, the symbol of morality?
6. Perhaps someone tells you 'I don't know much about art, but I know what I like'. What role do you think knowledge about art plays in our appreciation of a work of art?

TURN OVER

B. Knowledge

1. Is knowledge true justified belief? Justify your answer.
2. Is there any a priori knowledge? Justify your answer.
3. Can there be a substantive justification of induction?
4. What is the 'New Riddle of Induction'? What does it show?
5. Does foundationalism offer the best response to the regress problem of epistemic justification?
6. Do you need to be able to rule out sceptical alternatives –such as being a brain in a vat –in order to have knowledge?
7. What is Pyrrhonian Scepticism? Is it tenable?
8. 'An internalist account of epistemic justification is inferior to an externalist one.' Do you agree?

END OF PAPER