

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualifications:-

B.A. B.Sc.(Econ)LL.B.

Philosophy B11: Political Philosophy

COURSE CODE : **PHILB011**

UNIT VALUE : **1.00**

DATE : **13-MAY-04**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 Hours**

B11 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Answer **Three** Questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. What is the difference between 'rights as side constraints' and a 'utilitarianism of rights'? Which account of rights is more defensible?
2. Is taxation for the purposes of redistribution on a par with forced labour?
3. 'One may acquire previously unowned land (and its fruits) if one thereby makes others no worse off than they would have been if the land had instead remained in common use in a state of nature.' Discuss.
4. Are people owed compensation by others (who are alive today) for injustices committed against their distant ancestors?
5. What is the original position? Are parties in the original position motivated by self-interest or by altruism? What information is available to parties in the original position when they choose principles of justice? Is the original position a sound procedure for choosing principles of justice?
6. How, and how convincingly, does Rawls argue that parties in the original position would find it rational to choose his first principle of justice and to insist on its priority over his second principle?
7. EITHER:

(a) Would it be rational to choose the difference principle rather than average utilitarianism in the original position? Would it be rational to choose the difference principle rather than a guaranteed social minimum which meets basic needs?

OR

(b) '[T]o regard persons as means is to be prepared to impose on those already less favoured still lower prospects of life for the sake of the higher expectations of others.' Discuss.
8. 'An act is impermissible if the consequences would be disastrous if everyone with your reason for action acted for this reason.' Can Socrates's refusal to defy the verdict of the court be justified by appealing to the following principle?
9. 'For the average citizen, political participation in the form of voting or joining mass demonstrations is pointless, since it's so unlikely that he or she will make any difference.' Discuss.

TURN OVER

10. What is a prima facie moral obligation to obey the law? How does such an obligation of obedience differ from a moral obligation to do something that the law happens to command? How does it differ from an absolute (exceptionless) moral obligation to obey the law? What is the difference between the outweighing of such an obligation and its elimination?

11. Are we obliged to obey the laws of the state because we have offered our tacit consent by residing within the borders of this state?

12. EITHER:

(a) Does Plato's craft analogy illuminate any issue in political philosophy?

OR:

(b) How compelling is Plato's analogy between justice in the individual and justice in the state?

END OF PAPER