

BA EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Thursday, 15th May, 2003, 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm.

Optional subject (i): Post-Aristotelian Philosophy

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Assess the Epicurean claim that bodies are composed of atoms, and atoms of minima.
2. Does Epicurean hedonism take away the fear of death?
3. 'All sensations are true.' How successfully do the Epicureans incorporate this claim into their scientific methodology?
4. 'The wise man does not opine.' Can the Stoics defend this claim against sceptical attack?
5. Does the Stoic notion of appropriation (*oikeiosis*) justify moral concern for strangers?
6. Does the Stoic account of virtue explain how best to live?
7. Why did Chrysippus identify common emotions with false beliefs? Is his view refuted by the facts of experience?
8. What value did the Stoics place on friendship?
9. EITHER (a) How successful were the Stoics in making the attribution of moral responsibility compatible with determinism?
OR (b) How successful were the opponents of determinism in their attack on the Stoic account?
10. Why might a Pyrrhonist stop asking questions?
11. Can the sceptic live his scepticism?
12. Describe and assess Alcinous's arguments that the Platonic Forms are the thoughts of God.

13. Evaluate the achievements of the self-thinking Intellect of Middle Platonism.
14. Some Gnostics considered the origins of the world to be evil. Assess their case for this view and construct a Platonist response to it.
15. According to Plotinus, is the sensible world intelligible?
16. For Plotinus, are the One and the Good identical?
17. Expound and evaluate the Neoplatonist solution to the problem of evil.
18. Why did Plotinus postulate an undescended soul? Assess the arguments against the undescended soul made by other Neoplatonists.
19. Why, according to Porphyry, should animals not be eaten?
20. Assess Boethius' claim that God's foreknowledge of future events does not lead to determinism.
21. EITHER (a) What innovations do EITHER the Neoplatonist commentators OR Augustine contribute to the Aristotelian notion of time?
OR (b) What innovations do the Neoplatonist commentators contribute to the Aristotelian notion of space?
22. Assess John Philoponus' arguments against Aristotle's view that the world is eternal.

END OF PAPER