

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Wednesday 30 May 2012

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 4

SET TEXTS

*Answer **three** questions only, which must be chosen from **at least two sections**.*

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer. If you are answering an either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Answer Book x 1

Rough Work Pad

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed that you may do so by the Invigilator

SECTION A Plato, *Meno*

- 1 If the slave is not recalling prior knowledge, how does he come to know geometry?
- 2 What is the connection between being virtuous and being wise?
- 3 Is it odd that good men sometimes have bad sons?
- 4 Does one need a definition of virtue to be virtuous?

SECTION B Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

- 5 What is the best argument for the view that the world has an intelligent designer? How would you defend that argument against Hume?
- 6 **Either** (a) Critically assess the role of Pamphilus.
Or (b) Critically assess the role of the a priori/a posteriori distinction in Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*.
- 7 'Only the existence of God can explain why there is something rather than nothing.' Discuss.
- 8 Is scepticism about theology the correct conclusion to draw from Hume's *Dialogues*?

SECTION C Mill, *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women*

- 9 'If either a public officer or any one else saw a person attempting to cross a bridge which had been ascertained to be unsafe, and there were no time to warn him of his danger, they might seize him and turn him back without any real infringement of his liberty; for liberty consists in doing what one desires, and he does not desire to fall into the river.' (MILL) Discuss.

- 10 **Either** (a) How, if at all, is Mill's discussion of marriage philosophically and politically relevant today?
- Or** (b) 'But, it will be said, the rule of men over women differs ... in not being a rule of force: it is accepted voluntarily; women make no complaint, and are consenting parties to it.' (MILL) Discuss.
- 11 Is Mill right about the nature of the sexes? Is it important for his position that he is right?
- 12 **Either** (a) Does Mill present the right sort of defence of freedom of speech?
- Or** (b) Is Mill right to argue that speech should be treated as a self-regarding action?

END OF PAPER