

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Monday 25 May 2015

09.00 – 12.00

Paper 2

ETHICS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

*Answer **three** questions only.*

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer.

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**

1. Is it as much of a mistake to define 'right action' as to define 'good consequence'?
2. Are facts about what we ought to do any more metaphysically queer than facts about what we ought to believe?
3. What is the best case for an emotivist theory of ethical judgement? Should we be persuaded by it?
4. Can we distinguish a selfish desire from one that isn't? What implications does your answer have for the truth of egoism?
5. Is a thoroughgoing commitment to act-utilitarianism incompatible with being a good friend? What does your answer imply for whether we should accept act-utilitarianism?
6. 'The reason why it's wrong to hurt an animal is not that a virtuous person wouldn't hurt an animal; the reason is just that the animal would be in pain.' Is this a good reason to reject virtue ethics?
7. 'Moral rules often conflict, and we would need the principle of utility to resolve these conflicts.' Does this mean that deontology isn't a viable alternative to utilitarianism?
8. 'Since the point of rights is to protect our interests, rule-utilitarianism offers the best normative foundation for rights.' Discuss.
9. Can a social contract create genuine obligations if people agree to the contract only out of fear of an early death?
10. Can a duty of fair play impose political obligations on an anarchist?

END OF PAPER