

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA**

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Wednesday 27 May 2015

09.00 – 12.00

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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 the 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

1. Socrates claims of the virtues that, 'even if they are of many kinds, they still have one and the same form in virtue of which they are virtues' (PLATO). Should we agree with him?
2. Is Socrates right to deny that there is anyone who knows that bad things are bad but nevertheless desires them?
3. 'Should something have neither teachers nor students, we'd be right to conjecture that it isn't teachable' (PLATO). Is there any way to make such a conjecture reasonable? Explain your answer.
4. Explain and evaluate Socrates' claim that true beliefs are like the statues of Daedalus.

## SECTION B

5. 'How often, asleep at night, am I convinced of just such familiar events—that I am here in my dressing-gown, sitting by the fire—when in fact I am lying undressed in bed! ... I see plainly that there are never any sure signs by means of which being awake can be distinguished from being asleep' (DESCARTES). Explain and evaluate the argument from dreaming in the First Meditation.
6. 'I am really distinct from my body, and can exist without it' (DESCARTES). Explain and evaluate the argument for this 'real distinction' in the Sixth Meditation.
7. What is Descartes's argument for the existence of the self as a thinking thing? Is the argument successful?
8. 'I now seem to be able to lay it down as a general rule that whatever I perceive very clearly and distinctly is true' (DESCARTES). How does Descartes argue for this 'general rule', and what role does it play in his account of knowledge?

## SECTION C

9. 'There are many acts which, being directly injurious only to the agents themselves, ought not to be legally interdicted, but which, if done publicly, are a violation of good manners, and coming thus within the category of offences against others, may rightly be prohibited' (MILL). Discuss.
10. EITHER: (a) Why does Mill stipulate that the liberty principle should 'apply only to human beings in the maturity of their faculties'? Is he right to make this stipulation?  
  
OR: (b) Critically assess the role of individuality in Mill's theory.

11. 'The family, justly constituted, would be the real school of the virtues of freedom' (MILL). Discuss.
12. What is the relevance of observable gender differences to Mill's theory?

END OF PAPER