

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Wednesday 26 May 2004

9 to 12

Paper 4

SET TEXTS

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

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

**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 Is Socrates being reasonable in insisting that virtue is a unity, and susceptible of a single definition?
- 2 'The biggest paradox of the *Meno* is that Socrates takes Meno's paradox so seriously.' Discuss.
- 3 'True opinions ... run away from a man's mind, so they are not worth much until you tether them by working out the reason. That process, my dear Meno, is recollection, as we agreed earlier.' Discuss.
- 4 What role does the thesis that virtue is knowledge play in the *Meno*, and how well is it defended?

SECTION B

- 5 'Mankind could not escape from the state of war of all against all by making a contract, since in that state the degree of trust necessary to make a contract would not exist.' Is this a damaging objection to Hobbes' argument?
- 6 'These dictates of Reason, men use to call by the name of Lawes, but improperly: for they are but Conclusions, or Theoremes'. Critically discuss Hobbes' account of natural law.
- 7 Discuss the significance for Hobbes of his claim that there is 'no obligation on any man, which ariseth not from some act of his own.'
- 8 Assess Hobbes' reasons for his answer to the question: under what circumstances is a subject entitled to resist the will of the sovereign?

SECTION C

- 9 What reasons are given within the *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* for treating their subject matter in dialogue form? Are they Hume's real reasons?
- 10 '...order, arrangement, or the adjustment of final causes is not, of itself, any proof of design; but only so far as it has been experienced to proceed from that principle.' What role does this proposition play in Philo's case against the Teleological Argument in Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*?

[TURN OVER]

- 11 Discuss either or both of the following criticisms of the cosmological argument, as stated by Demea in Part IX of Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*:
- (a) Its conclusion contradicts one of its premises.
 - (b) Even if it does prove a necessary being, that necessary being might be the material world.
- 12 'The greatest difficulty facing the project of natural religion is to establish the moral properties of the Creator.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER