

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Wednesday 31 May 2017

09.00 – 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.

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. What, if anything, is wrong with Meno's initial 'swarm' of answers to the question: 'What is virtue?'?
2. Evaluate Socrates' rejection of the possibility of desiring something bad knowing that it is harmful.
3. Present and evaluate Socrates' argument for the conclusion that Meno's slave has recollected the answer to the geometrical puzzle.
4. Good and noble Athenians such as Themistocles and Aristides had sons who were neither good nor noble. What conclusions should we draw from this?

SECTION B

5. Explain and comparatively assess two sceptical arguments in the First Meditation.
6. 'The proposition *I am, I exist*, is necessarily true whenever it is put forward by me or conceived in my mind' (DESCARTES). What is the best way to understand this claim? What is its role in the *Meditations*?
7. 'Descartes's response to the problem of error depends on an implausible analogy between action and belief.' Discuss.
8. Why can Descartes not allow that a thinking thing might be corporeal?

SECTION C

9. To what extent is the understanding of human flourishing in *On Liberty* compatible with a commitment to utilitarianism?
10. What role does truth play in Mill's argument for freedom of expression? How does his argument apply to speakers who don't care about truth?
11. Mill compared a certain belief about women to the belief 'that the tree grows of itself in the way [men] have made it grow, and that it would die if one half of it were not kept in a vapour bath and the other half in the snow.' How does this analogy shed light on the role of nature in his argument for women's equality?
12. 'The family is a school of despotism, in which the virtues of despotism, but also its vices, are largely nourished' (MILL). Discuss.

END OF PAPER