

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Tuesday 30 MAY 2006

9 to 12

Paper 4

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Answer **three** questions only, at least **one** from **each** section.

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: Plato's *Republic*

- 1 **Either** (a) 'Each part of soul has a mental life of its own.' Assess this claim with reference to Plato's tripartite division of soul in the *Republic*.
- Or** (b) If the rational soul has desires and the appetitive soul reasons, then how can the division make sense?
- 2 Does Plato convince the reader of the *Republic* that Gyges will be unhappy?
- 3 **Either** (a) Does Plato's idea that in every pursuit men outperform women undermine his argument for female rulers?
- Or** (b) Do the views on women in the *Republic* represent the 'transcendence of personal inclination in response to the dictates of impersonal moral theory'?
- 4 How does bad art corrupt, according to Plato? Does the *Republic* itself count as bad art?
- 5 What is wrong with the democratic man according to Plato? Assess his arguments.

SECTION B: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

- 6 **Either** (a) 'There is ample evidence that Aristotle thinks of happiness solely as contemplation in the *Nicomachean Ethics*.' Is this the case?
- Or** (b) Are Aristotle's views on the effect of fortune on happiness acceptable?
- 7 **Either** (a) Does Aristotle have a convincing and consistent account of how we become virtuous?
- Or** (b) Can I blame my upbringing for my bad character, according to Aristotle? Assess his arguments.
- 8 Does Aristotle provide a coherent account of weakness of the will (*akrasia*)?
- 9 'Justice is a kind of mean, but not in the same way as other virtues' (Aristotle). Explain and assess this claim.
- 10 **Either** (a) Is Aristotle right to draw a sharp distinction between theoretical wisdom and *phronesis*?
- Or** (b) Critically assess Aristotle's argument for the claim that one cannot have one moral virtue without having all the others.