

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Thursday 1 JUNE 2006

9 to 12

Paper 5

HISTORY OF MODERN 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 What part does the body play in thinking, according to Avicenna? Assess his arguments.
- 2 Examine how religious commitments affected the accounts of the soul given by Avicenna.
- 3 If the intellective soul is the form of the body, as Aquinas argues, how can it continue to exist without the body?
- 4 ‘In his treatment of the soul, Aquinas belongs to the Aristotelian commentary tradition.’ Discuss.
- 5 ‘It cannot be sound to assume the veracity of a supreme being in order to support the veracity of our senses.’ Is this a compelling criticism of Descartes?
- 6 ‘But it is also true that the idea of heat, or of a stone, cannot exist in me unless it is put there by some cause which contains at least as much reality as I conceive to be in the heat or in the stone.’ What did Descartes mean by this? Discuss the use he made of it in one of his proofs of the existence of God.
- 7 ‘In order to proceed from mathematics to physics another principle is necessary....that is *the principle of a sufficient reason*.’ How successful is Leibniz’s use of this principle in his criticism of the Clarke-Newton absolutist conception of space and time, and the construction of his own alternative?
- 8 Why don’t Leibniz’s simple substances enter into causal relations with each other?
- 9 Was it reasonable of Berkeley to deny *material* substance whilst accepting *spiritual* substance?
- 10 Describe and assess one or more of Berkeley’s arguments for the existence of God.
- 11 ‘Hume has no philosophical views whatever about causation, only about how we come to hold causal beliefs.’ Do you agree?
- 12 In what sense, if any, was Hume a sceptic?
- 13 Compare the views of any two of the philosophers set for this paper on the nature of representation.
- 14 What role does the will play in the philosophy of any two of Descartes, Leibniz, Berkeley and Hume?
- 15 Discuss the view, predominant in seventeenth-century philosophy, that causal connections must be ‘intelligible’. Illustrate some of the consequences of this view in philosophies of the time.

END OF PAPER