

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

---

Thursday 2 June 2005

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 'This, they say, is the origin and the essence of justice: it stands between the best and the worst, the best being to do wrong without paying the penalty and the worst to be wronged without the power of revenge' (*Republic* 359a). Does Plato in the *Republic* give us good reasons to doubt this?
- 2 What difficulties does the state-soul analogy pose?
- 3 Why should women be allowed to rule, according to Plato? Does he present a coherent argument for this in the *Republic*?
- 4 Assess the arguments against democracy developed in book VIII of the *Republic*.
- 5 **Either** (a) Is anyone happy (*eudaimon*) in Plato's ideal city?  
**Or** (b) Is it just for the guardians to rule? Why will they want to do so?

SECTION B: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

- 6 According to Aristotle practical wisdom can be neither scientific knowledge nor art. Discuss.
- 7 Could we be happy if we lived alone, according to Aristotle? Discuss with reference to the contemplative life.
- 8 Discuss Aristotle's account of moral virtue with specific reference to the distinction between virtue and continence (*enkrateia*).
- 9 Are we responsible for the characters we acquire? Can we change these?
- 10 Elucidate the relationship between *akrasia* and rationality in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*.

END OF PAPER