PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS     Part IB

Thursday 28 May 2009      13.30 to 16.30

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 an 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) Does Socrates provide a convincing account of justice in opposition to Thrasymachus' position?

Or (b) Is there any justice in Plato's ideal city?

2 'Socrates' analogy between the individual and the state is misguided.' Discuss.

3 Either (a) Does Plato argue successfully that psychic harmony is necessary and sufficient for happiness?

Or (b) Explain and assess the role of Plato's spirited part of the soul (*thumoeides*) in his account of moral psychology.

4 Does Plato have good arguments for thinking that women should be among the rulers?

5 Is literature always corrupting?

SECTION B: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

6 Either (a) 'The human good is an activity of soul in accordance with virtue, and if there are several virtues, in accordance with the best and most complete (*teleiotatēn*)' (1098a16–18). How ought we to understand the last words of this sentence?

Or (b) 'The position Aristotle puts forward in his *Nicomachean Ethics* Book X chs. 6–8 is inconsistent with the rest of the work.' Discuss.

7 Either (a) What, if anything, is wrong with Aristotle's doctrine of the mean?

Or (b) Does Aristotle satisfactorily explain how justice can be a virtue of character?

8 Either (a) Assess Aristotle's insistence that each person is responsible for the state of her character.

Or (b) Is decision (*prohairesis*) too central to Aristotle's account of moral virtue?

9 Either (a) Is the person with practical wisdom an impossible ideal? If so, what use are Aristotle's writings on ethics?

Or (b) Explain and assess Aristotle's distinction between natural and full virtue in *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VI.

10 Why does the virtuous man need friends, according to Aristotle?

END OF PAPER