

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 (*teleiostatên*)' (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