

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

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Thursday 31 May 2007

13.30 to 16.30

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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 Assess Avicenna's arguments for the immortality of the soul.
- 2 How convincingly does Avicenna show the need for the Active in his theory of knowledge?
- 3 Does Aquinas think that it is I who will survive the death of my body?
- 4 Critically assess Aquinas' response to Aristotle's *On the Soul*.
- 5 At what point in the *Meditations* can Descartes claim secure knowledge?
- 6 'The greatest benefit [of doubt in the *Meditations*] lies in freeing us from all our preconceived opinions, and providing the easiest route by which the mind may be led away from the senses' (DESCARTES). Discuss.
- 7 'But in order to proceed from mathematics another principle is necessary .... that is the *principle of sufficient reason*' (LEIBNIZ). Discuss.
- 8 Does Leibniz' essential reliance on the existence and nature of God in his metaphysics mean that an atheist cannot accept any of his conclusions?
- 9 Can Berkeley believe in the existence of other minds?
- 10 Explain the importance of Berkeley's theory of causation to the rest of his metaphysics.
- 11 What is Hume's aim in his account of causation? Does he achieve it?
- 12 'We feign the continu'd existence of the perceptions of our senses, to remove the interruption; and run into the notion of a *soul*, and *self*, and *substance*, to disguise the variation' (HUME). Discuss.
- 13 Which, if any, of the following philosophers can properly be described as a sceptic: Descartes, Berkeley, Hume? Answer with reference to at least **two** of them.
- 14 Compare the views of any **two** philosophers set for this paper on the nature of matter.
- 15 Compare the views of any **two** philosophers set for this paper of the nature of ideas.

END OF PAPER