

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

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Wednesday 28 May 2008

09.00 to 12.00

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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. 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**

- 1 How does Avicenna think intellectual cognition is reached? How well does his theory explain how human beings think?
- 2 Why does Aquinas think that the intellective soul can exist without the body it informed? What are the main arguments against this position, and does Aquinas succeed in meeting them?
- 3 How does Aquinas's account of the relationship between human souls and bodies differ from Avicenna's? Are there good philosophical grounds for these differences?
- 4 **Either** (a) Why did Descartes describe his task as being to 'lead the mind away from the senses'? Did he succeed in doing so?  
**Or** (b) 'Cartesian doubt is psychologically impossible.' Would that make it philosophically useless?
- 5 What is a *real* distinction? Assess Descartes' attempt to establish a real distinction between Mind and Body.
- 6 Why did Leibniz think that we need a principle of sufficient reason to move from mathematics to metaphysics?
- 7 Does Leibniz give a convincing account of contingent and necessary truths?
- 8 Can Locke account for our acquisition of ideas of primary qualities?
- 9 How satisfactory is Locke's account of sensitive knowledge?
- 10 Is it a travesty to classify Locke as an empiricist?
- 11 Describe and assess Berkeley's attack on abstract ideas in the Introduction to *Principles of Human Knowledge*.
- 12 Why did Berkeley think that nothing we perceive can inhere in an unperceiving substance? Was he right?
- 13 'Interpreting Hume as a Naturalist avoids some of the standard criticisms of him as an Empiricist.' Discuss.
- 14 Does Hume's account of human understanding rely too much on 'the association of ideas'?
- 15 Is Hume's account of Causation adequate for its purpose?

[TURN OVER]

- 16 'The difference between so-called Rationalists and Empiricists is simply the different status and nature they ascribe to mathematics.' Discuss with respect to at least **two** philosophers.
- 17 If causal connection is required to be intelligible, which philosopher provides the best account of causation? Discuss with respect to at least **two** philosophers on the syllabus for the paper.
- 18 Does any of the philosophers on the syllabus for the paper give a satisfactory account of the Self?

END OF PAPER