PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS  Part IB

Wednesday 26 May 2010  09.00 to 12.00

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 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
1 Either  (a)  How does Boethius use his conception of God's eternity to solve the problem of prescience? Is the solution satisfactory?

Or  (b) Which, if any, of the problems he raises about the compatibility of divine omniscience and human freedom does Boethius fail to solve? How do you explain any failure or failures you find?

2 Either  (a)  How successful is Ockham's critique of Scotus's position on God's knowledge of future contingents?

Or  (b) Ockham admits that he does not know how God has knowledge of future contingents. Is this a serious flaw in his solution to the problem of prescience?

3 Does Descartes stop the all-corrosive spread of doubt by a defensible move or a questionable shuffle?

4 Compare and contrast the role and content of Descartes's argument for the existence of God in Meditation III with his argument in Meditation V.

5 Can Leibniz account for the existence of genuine contingency?

6 Explain Leibniz's idea of an individual substance. Evaluate Leibniz's arguments for introducing substances into our ontology.

7 Either  (a)  Outline and critically discuss Locke's contrast between simple and complex ideas and the use he makes of it.

Or  (b) Does Locke have good reason to deny the existence of innate ideas?

8 Do Berkeley's criticisms of Locke's distinction between primary and secondary qualities hit their target?

9 Is Berkeley's problem with matter that the idea of it is incoherent or that we cannot be justified in postulating its existence?

10 What is Berkeley's account of the nature of minds? Is he entitled to be more confident of their existence than of the existence of matter?

11 What is the significance of Hume's denial that 'reason' is responsible for particular functions of the mind?

12 Compare Hume's treatment of induction with his treatment of the external world.
13 Compare and contrast the views of Descartes and Leibniz on unconscious ideas.

14 Do the so-called 'British Empiricists' have distinctive shared views? If so, what are they?

15 Compare and contrast the views of any two philosophers on the syllabus on the interaction of mind and body.

END OF PAPER