

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

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Wednesday 26 May 2010

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 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