

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Wednesday 01 June 2011

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 5

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL 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) Is Boethius's god atemporal? What bearing does the answer to this question have on the argument of *Consolation* Book 5?
Or (b) Explain Boethius's distinction between simple and conditional necessity. To what extent can this distinction alone resolve the problem posed in the *Consolation* about the compatibility of divine prescience and human free will?
- 2 **Either** (a) What were Ockham's criticisms of Scotus's theory of God's contingency? Are they persuasive?
Or (b) What does Ockham mean by a proposition that is 'present in wording only'? How well does he use this idea to solve the problem of divine prescience and future contingents?
- 3 'In the *Meditations*, Descartes uses sceptical arguments in an original way as an essential step in establishing his conclusions.' Discuss.
- 4 Is Descartes a substance dualist?
- 5 In what sense, if any, does Leibniz resolve the mind-body problem?
- 6 Assess Leibniz's reasons for believing that reality is a colony of souls.
- 7 Critically discuss Locke's theory of nominal essence.
- 8 **Either** (a) How satisfactory is Locke's account of sensitive knowledge?
Or (b) Critically discuss Locke's account of the distinction between primary and secondary qualities.
- 9 Berkeley claims that his views about the nature of everyday objects around us agree with those of common sense. Is he right?
- 10 'In allowing mental substance while denying material substance Berkeley failed to follow through on his own arguments.' Discuss.
- 11 Is Hume, given his own principles, entitled to distinguish impressions, ideas, and external objects?
- 12 In what sense, if any, is Hume a sceptic?

- 13 Were Hume's views on causation an improvement on those of his predecessors? Discuss with respect to either **one or two** of Descartes, Locke, Leibniz or Berkeley.
- 14 Compare the role of the notion of an infinite mind in Leibniz and in Berkeley.
- 15 Which of Locke and Leibniz has the better view about innate ideas?

END OF PAPER