PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS     Part IB

Friday 29 May 2009 09.00 to 12.00

Paper 7

POLITICAL 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) 'Egalitarianism is fundamentally misguided because it commits us to making better-off people worse-off, to no one's advantage.' Discuss.

Or (b) Do defenders of distributive equality unfairly neglect social equality?

2 Can legitimate political authority be established by tacit consent?

3 Is political philosophy applied ethics?

4 Either (a) What is the strongest argument in favour of negative rather than positive liberty?

Or (b) 'Those who are poor, just like those who only have many trivial options, are unfree.' Discuss.

5 Either (a) What are Rawls's two Principles of Justice? Are Rawls's arguments in their defence convincing?

Or (b) What ethos should guide the private decisions of citizens in a society regulated by Rawls's principles of justice?

6 Critically assess Nozick's claim that taxation is on a par with forced labour.

7 Is paternalism wrong? If so, why? If not, why not?

8 What's wrong with a tyranny of the majority?

9 Can I have political obligations to a group that is not organized as a state?

10 What is the strongest argument in favour of democracy? Does it work?

END OF PAPER