

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

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Tuesday 29 May 2012

09.00 to 12.00

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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 Is Nozick right that the only kind of state that can be justified is the minimal state?
- 2 **Either** (a) Do citizens of liberal democratic states have a natural duty to obey the law?  
**Or** (b) 'I have not explicitly consented to the authority of the state, therefore I have no duty to obey the law.' Discuss.
- 3 **Either** (a) In which ways, if any, is justice as fairness an egalitarian theory?  
**Or** (b) Is Rawls' difference principle preferable to a strict equality principle?
- 4 'Securing and maintaining equality requires violating the rights of self-ownership.' Discuss.
- 5 'A distributional scheme treats people as equals when it distributes or transfers resources among them until no further transfer would leave them more equal in welfare.' Discuss.
- 6 'According to egalitarians, it would be better if we removed the eyes of the sighted, not to give them to the blind, but simply to make everyone equally blind.' Discuss.
- 7 **Either** (a) Is there more to liberty than the absence of interference?  
**Or** (b) 'Positive liberty is a dangerous political ideal, we should therefore reject it.' Discuss.
- 8 Can freedom have value independently of the value we attach to the specific things we are free to do?
- 9 **Either** (a) 'Democracy is one of the worst forms of government for acquiring knowledge about what to do in a society.' Discuss.  
**Or** (b) What is the most serious problem for deliberative democracy?
- 10 In order to be a democrat, do you always have to approve of the majority's decision?