

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Thursday 29th May 2014

09.00 – 12.00

Paper 5

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY

*Answer **three** questions only.*

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer.

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 Hume's view on the origin of the idea of space consistent with his empiricism?
2. In what sense, if any, is Hume a sceptic with regard to the existence of external bodies?
3. Compare Descartes's and Hume's views about the identity of the self.
4. 'I see plainly that there are never any sure signs by means of which being awake can be distinguished from being asleep.' Explain and evaluate the significance of this in the first of Descartes's *Meditations*.
5. 'This proposition I am, I exist, is necessarily true whenever it is put forward by me or conceived in my mind'. Explain the meaning and point of this claim in the context of Descartes's *Meditations*.
6. Do we have any innate ideas? Answer with reference to two of the following: (a) Descartes (b) Locke (c) Leibniz.
7. What is a 'monad'? What reasons, if any, do we have for thinking that monads exist? Explain and evaluate Leibniz's answer to these questions.
8. 'All our simple ideas in their first appearance are derived from simple impressions'. What does Hume mean by this claim, and what work does he put it to?
9. Does Berkeley manage to prove that what philosophers call 'matter' is a fiction?
10. Do you find Berkeley's account of the perception of distance convincing?
11. To what extent do we have capacities of abstraction?
12. Should Berkeley have been a sceptic?

END OF PAPER