

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Wednesday 28th May 2014

09.00 – 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. In a society, each adult has one and only one vote. Is it a democracy?
2. In a democracy is it better to try to achieve consensus or to agree to disagree?
3. EITHER (a) Are the poor unfree? If not, why not? If so, so what?
OR (b) Can adapting to interferences make us free?
4. What, if anything, is wrong with paternalism?
5. 'Inequalities in wealth are important, but only because they reflect and perpetuate social inequalities.' Do you agree?
6. Is a failure to implement policies of positive discrimination discriminatory?
7. Does the concept of self-ownership vindicate absolute property rights?
8. 'Is it not the supreme and most insidious exercise of power to prevent people, to whatever degree, from having grievances by shaping their perceptions, cognitions and preferences, in such a way that they accept their role in the existing order of things, either because they can see or imagine no alternative to it, or because they see it as natural and unchangeable?' Discuss.
9. EITHER (a) How might the notion of power help us to understand the political significance of schooling?
OR (b) How might the notion of power help us to understand the political significance of prisons?
10. 'Establishing principles of justice for the basic structure of a well-ordered society is an important task for political philosophers.' Is it?

END OF PAPER