

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II**

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Wednesday 4 June 2003

1.30 to 4.30

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Part IB: Paper 5

Part II: Paper 12 (for 2003 only)

**HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY I**

*Answer **three** questions only.*

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

**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 According to Anselm, that than which nothing greater can be thought cannot be thought not to exist. Does this formulation make his argument for God's existence easier to defend?
- 2 What are the main problems Anselm faces in the *Proslogion* concerning the compossibility of God's attributes? Does he resolve them?
- 3 Aquinas says that his First Way is more evident than the others. Should the modern reader agree?
- 4 How far did Aquinas consider that his Five Ways went to demonstrating the existence of God?
- 5 Examine Descartes' attempt to prove the existence of God from the fact that he has an idea of God.
- 6 Did Descartes succeed in showing that there is a 'real distinction' between the mind and the body?
- 7 What did Leibniz understand by (a) the predicate-in-subject principle, (b) the principle of sufficient reason, and (c) the identity of indiscernibles? Taking each principle in turn, discuss at least one of the ways in which Leibniz connects it to one of the other principles.
- 8 What, in Leibniz' system, are the main characteristics of monads?
- 9 Evaluate Berkeley's criticism of abstract general ideas. Is his own doctrine of general ideas an improvement?
- 10 Outline Berkeley's case against the existence of matter. Then discuss any **one** aspect of it in detail.
- 11 'Hume had no positive view about what causation is, only a negative one about what it isn't.' Do you agree?
- 12 What was Hume's view about (a) the nature of the self, and (b) the causes of our belief in the self?
- 13 Illustrate the importance in 17<sup>th</sup> century thought of what Berkeley called 'the old known axiom: nothing can give to another thing that which it hath not itself'.
- 14 Discuss the notion of an idea as it occurs in the philosophy of Descartes, Hume, or both.
- 15 Compare Aquinas' notion of substance with **either** that of Descartes **or** that of Leibniz.

END OF PAPER