

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Tuesday 26 May 2009

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 11

AESTHETICS

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) Could it be the case in general that works of art are indistinguishable from objects that are not works of art?
 Or (b) Is a sculpture a physical object?
- 2 **Either** (a) 'To appreciate a work of art we need bring with us nothing from life, no knowledge of its ideas and affairs, no familiarity with its emotions' (CLIVE BELL). Discuss.
 Or (b) Are the truth-values of moral claims made within a fiction ever relevant to the work's value as fiction?
- 3 **Either** (a) Is an aesthetic experience always a disinterested experience?
 Or (b) Are aesthetic experiences ever unpleasant?
- 4 Should a theory of aesthetics be concerned both with the experience of nature and the experience of works of art, or only with the experience of works of art?
- 5 Is art criticism just a special instance of the kind of evaluation we make of artifacts and human actions in everyday life?
- 6 Is understanding a work of art re-experiencing the emotions the artist had in creating the work?
- 7 What, on Plato's view, constitutes 'good' art?
- 8 Is it possible to defend mimetic art against Plato's charge that it is essentially morally corrupting?
- 9 Does the historical variability of human taste mean that all aesthetic judgement is nothing but an expression of individual preference?
- 10 Can we train ourselves to become closer to being 'ideal critics' in Hume's sense? If so, how?

END OF PAPER