

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II**

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Tuesday 01 June 2010

09.00 to 12.00

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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 'The idea of experience which is distinctively aesthetic is pretentious tosh.' Discuss.
- 2 **Either** (a) Must someone aiming to create a work of art be aiming to create something beautiful?
- Or** (b) 'The concept expressed by the word "art" has become too diffuse and confused to be of any use.' Discuss.
- 3 What does understanding a work of art have to do with understanding how and why the artist created it?
- 4 'No piece of music can be sad in any straightforward sense. After all, no piece of music is alive.' Discuss.
- 5 **Either** (a) Ought one not to enjoy a play if one judges it to be wholly without artistic merit?
- Or** (b) 'I don't know much about art but I know what I like.' Discuss.
- 6 Is originality overrated in the assessment of works of art?
- 7 Does looking at a picture of a tree offer better, worse or just different opportunities for aesthetic engagement, from those offered by looking at the tree itself?
- 8 In what ways can a novel present a moral point of view? Are all, some, or none of these ways relevant to assessment of it as a good novel?
- 9 **Either** (a) Is 'good art' a contradiction in terms for Plato?
- Or** (b) What insights into the nature of art, if any, can we take from Plato?
- 10 **Either** (a) Does Hume's account of judgements about works of art overestimate the likelihood of our arriving at agreement?
- Or** (b) Is becoming an 'ideal critic' in Hume's sense an attractive prospect?
- 11 Should a perfect copy of a work of art be worth less than the original?

END OF PAPER