



CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part IB
Paper 8

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part IB
Paper GL 18

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB
Paper 4

Monday 5 June 2023 11.00 to 16.00

GREEK AND ROMAN PHILOSOPHY

*Answer **three** questions, at least **one** from each Section.*

All questions carry equal marks.

All essays should be uploaded as a single document.

Clearly identify each question and write the question number before each answer.

Please provide a word count for each essay.

There is a word limit of 1750 words for each essay.

*Enter your **candidate number** (not your name) on the front page of the document you upload.*

Irrelevance will be penalised.

*For candidates who choose to provide hand-written answers: **candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.***

SECTION A

A1 Towards the beginning of the *Phaedo*, Socrates says that he must make a “defence speech” that will be more convincing than the one to his Athenian jury. What position does he have to defend, and how successful is he?

A2 “The Cyclical Argument (70a–72d) is nothing more than an attempt to rationalise the mythology of Hades.” Discuss.

A3 οὐκοῦν ὁμολογοῦμεν, ὅταν τίς τι ἰδὼν ἐννοήσῃ ὅτι βούλεται μὲν τοῦτο ὃ νῦν ἐγὼ ὁρῶ εἶναι οἷον ἄλλο τι τῶν ὄντων, ἐνδεῖ δὲ καὶ οὐ δύναται τοιοῦτον εἶναι ἴσον οἷον ἐκεῖνο, ἀλλ’ ἔστιν φαυλότερον, ἀναγκαῖόν που τὸν τοῦτο ἐννοοῦντα τυχεῖν προειδότα ἐκεῖνο ᾧ φησιν αὐτὸ προσεοικέναι μὲν, ἐνδεεστέρας δὲ ἔχειν;

Whenever someone, on seeing something, realises that that which he now sees wants to be like some other reality but falls short and cannot be like that other since it is inferior, do we agree that the one who thinks this must have prior knowledge of that to which he says it is like, but deficiently so? (*Phaedo* 74d–e, trans. G. M. A. Grube)

Explain the role played by “falling short” and deficiency in the Recollection Argument (72e–77d).

A4 Present and critically evaluate the view that the soul is a *harmonia* and the reasons why it is rejected by Socrates and his interlocutors.

A5 “The Affinity Argument (78b–84b) does not contribute anything useful to the overall argumentation of the *Phaedo*.” Discuss.

A6 How does the “second voyage” relate to Socrates’s original enquiry into nature and its causes?

A7 What is the significance of the introduction of items like fire and snow in the Last Argument (102a–107b) of the *Phaedo*?

A8 ἀλλὰ τόδε γ', ἔφη, ὧ ἄνδρες, δίκαιον διανοηθῆναι, ὅτι, εἴπερ ἡ ψυχὴ ἀθάνατος, ἐπιμελείας δὴ δεῖται οὐχ ὑπὲρ τοῦ χρόνου τούτου μόνον ἐν ᾧ καλοῦμεν τὸ ζῆν, ἀλλ' ὑπὲρ τοῦ παντός, καὶ ὁ κίνδυνος νῦν δὴ καὶ δόξειεν ἂν δεινὸς εἶναι, εἴ τις αὐτῆς ἀμελήσει.

It is right to think then, gentlemen, that if the soul is immortal, it requires our care not only for the time we call our life, but for the sake of all time, and that one is in terrible danger if one does not give it that care. (*Phaedo* 107c, trans. G. M. A. Grube)

How does the myth that follows help to establish this point?

SECTION B

B1 Is there anything scientific about Presocratic natural philosophy?

B2 What is Heraclitus' *Logos*?

B3 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πείρας πύματον, τετελεσμένου ἐστὶ
πάντοθεν, εὐκύκλου σφαίρης ἐναλίκιον ὄγκῳ,
μεσσόθεν ἰσοπαλὲς πάντῃ· τὸ γὰρ οὔτε τι μεῖζον
οὔτε τι βαιότερον πελέναι χρεὼν ἐστὶ τῇ ἢ τῇ.

Since now its limit is ultimate, it is in a state of perfection from every viewpoint, like the volume of a spherical ball, and equally poised in every direction from its centre. For it must not be either at all greater or at all smaller in one regard than in another.

PARMENIDES B8.42–45, trans. A. H. Coxon

Can this be a coherent account of What-Is, considering Parmenides' other arguments about it?

B4 Explain and evaluate **either** Empedocles' **or** Anaxagoras' account of the formation of a cosmos.

B5 **Either** (a) Does Zeno's work "come to the defence of Parmenides' argument" (as Plato claims in *Parmenides* 128c)? Explain your answer.

Or (b) Can the atomists successfully maintain that *every* feature of the world around us can be accounted for on the basis of only atoms and void? Explain your answer.

B6 Why does Plato make *eros* a topic of philosophical discussion?

B7 How successfully does Socrates show in the *Republic* that the "lovers of sights and sounds" are not philosophers?

- B8** What does the primacy of primary substances consist in? Discuss with reference to Aristotle's *Categories*.
- B9** Is ethical virtue sufficient for happiness according to Aristotle? Explain your answer.
- B10** What does a good explanation of a natural phenomenon amount to according to Aristotle?
- B11** What are Aristotle's arguments in support of the claim that the soul is a form?
- B12** Can the Pyrrhonist coherently advocate Pyrrhonian scepticism as a way of life? Justify your answer.
- B13** If it is true that there will be a sea battle tomorrow, is it fated that there will be a sea battle tomorrow? You may refer to only some or all ancient parties involved in this debate.
- B14** **Either** (a) Present and assess the Academic arguments against the possibility of cognitive impressions.
- Or** (b) How might an Epicurean argue for the claim that all perceptions are true?

END OF PAPER