

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

12:00 noon BST Thursday 27 May 2021 –
12:00 noon BST Friday 28 May 2021

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.

*For each question do not write more than **2000** words.*

1. 'Democracy is good only insofar as it produces good outcomes. Democracy is not producing good outcomes. So let's get rid of democracy.' Discuss.
2. Is deliberative democracy biased towards privileged people?
3. Must democratic rule be majority rule?
4. 'The "difference principle" is the best principle of distributive justice we can hope for.' Discuss.
5. 'Individuals who knowingly take on a gamble and lose should bear the full costs of that loss.' Discuss.
6. EITHER: (A) 'A person in abject poverty can be subject to the most acute exploitation yet never have their self-ownership violated. Therefore, self-ownership is a hollow ideal.' Discuss.

OR: (B) Should the earth's resources be held in common?
7. 'Equality is about whether one is able to look others in the eye, not about how many possessions one holds in one's hands.' Discuss.
8. EITHER: (A) 'The social contract tradition employs a negative, not a positive, conception of liberty.' Discuss.

OR: (B) 'The republican tradition employs a positive, not a negative, conception of liberty.' Discuss.
9. Do traffic lights make us less free?
10. 'You can be politically oppressed by other people, and you can be politically oppressed by social institutions, but you cannot be politically oppressed by social norms.' Discuss.

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