PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

12:00 noon BST Thursday 17 June 2021 –
12:00 noon BST Friday 18 June 2021

Paper 5

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY

*Answer **three** questions only (at least one from each section)*

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.*

A

1. Ought we be monists? Discuss, drawing on the views of one or more of: Cavendish, Hume, Leibniz, Spinoza.

2. What, if anything, does pre-established harmony explain?

3. Discuss Hume's uses of 'liveliness', 'force', 'vivacity' and 'steadiness' in characterizing:

    EITHER: (A) impressions and ideas

    OR: (B) memories and fantasies.

4. What, according to Cavendish, is the role of the imagination in philosophy?

5. In what sense, if any, was Spinoza a materialist?

6. What are you? Discuss, drawing on the views of one or more of: Cavendish, Hume, Leibniz, Spinoza.

B

7. Was Descartes a libertarian?

8. 'To understand is to be free.' (SPINOZA) Is it?

9. EITHER: (A) 'In absolutely indifferent things there is no choice, and consequently no election or will, since choice must be founded in some reason or principle...' (LEIBNIZ) Discuss.

    OR: (B) 'Liberty, and necessity are consistent: as in the water, that hath not only liberty, but a necessity of descending by the channel; so likewise in the actions which men voluntarily do: which, because they proceed from their will, proceed from liberty; and yet, because every act of man's will, and every desire, and inclination proceedeth from some cause, and that from another cause, in a continual chain, (whose first link is in the hand of God the first of all causes,) they proceed from necessity.' (HOBBES) Discuss.

10. 'The mind has no sex.' (POULLAIN DE LA BARRE) Explain and discuss.

11. Is marriage an institution worth keeping? Discuss, drawing on the views of thinkers in the early-modern philosophical debate.

12. Why are there no women in the history of philosophy?

END OF PAPER