

PHT0/4
Philosophy Tripos, Part IA

Friday, 31 May 2024

13:30 to 16.30

Paper 4

SET TEXTS

Answer **three** questions only, which must be chosen from **at least two sections**.

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer. If you are answering the either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

Write your candidate number, **not** your name, on the cover of **each** submitted document.

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 to do so.

SECTION A

1. Does Meno have a good answer to the question 'What is virtue?'
2. What do I need to know about something to be able to ask a question about it?
Answer with reference to the discussion in the *Meno*.
3. Does it make any difference whether I do the right thing because I *truly believe* that it is the right thing to do, or because I *know* that it is the right thing to do?
Answer with reference to the discussion in the *Meno*.
4. What is Plato's account of geometric knowledge in the *Meno*? Is it plausible?

SECTION B

5. Why does Descartes's meditator pursue sceptical arguments if the goal is knowledge?
6. 'Nature also teaches me...that I am not merely present in my body as a sailor is present in a ship, but that I am very closely joined and, as it were, intermingled with it, so that I and the body form a unit.' (*DESCARTES*) Discuss.
7. What is the significance of the proposition 'I am, I exist' in the second *Meditation*? Is Descartes right to give the proposition the significance that he does?
8. 'That God must be the source of my idea of God is no more plausible than that Harry Potter is the source of my idea of Harry Potter.' Would Descartes agree? What is the significance of this for the argument of the *Meditations*?

SECTION C

9. **EITHER:** (a) Would Mill be concerned about 'cancel culture'?

OR: (b) Is censorship the most serious threat to free speech, as Mill understands free speech?
10. 'The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.' (*MILL*) Is Mill correct?
11. **EITHER:** (a) Does Mill's insistence on individuality actually undermine individuality?

OR: (b) Must everyone engage in experiments in living?
12. 'Mill's arguments in *The Subjection of Women* are convincing, but they have little relevance today.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER