

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS, PART IB

Monday 29 May 2023

13.30-16.30

Paper 5

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Answer **three** questions only.

Answer at least one question from each of sections A and B.

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

Section A

1. EITHER: (a) How does Descartes's ethics fit into the larger Cartesian project?
OR: (b) How does Descartes's physics fit into the larger Cartesian project?
2. What is the role of functional explanation in Descartes's faculty psychology? And what can we learn from this about the overall character of Cartesian philosophy?
3. Are bodies substances? Discuss with reference to Leibniz and/or du Châtelet.
4. Are persons substances? Discuss with reference to Hume.
5. What, if anything, does the Principle of Sufficient Reason tell us about the nature of space? Discuss with reference to Leibniz.
6. Is belief in an object nothing but an idea with a high degree of force/vivacity/firmness as Hume suggested? If not, why not?
7. What is scepticism according to Hume? Was he a sceptic?
8. EITHER: (a) Can illusions make us happy? Discuss with relation to du Châtelet
OR: (b) 'I contrive no hypotheses.' (NEWTON) Discuss with relation to du Châtelet.

Section B

9. Do we have any reason to believe in matter? Discuss with reference to two or more Early Modern philosophers.
10. I am looking out of my window at a tree. What explains how it is possible for me to see the tree? Discuss with reference to one or more Early Modern philosophers.
11. What should Descartes have told Elisabeth in answer to her question about how the soul can interact with the body?
12. What's wrong, if anything, with Cartesian dualism, apart from the interaction problem? Discuss with reference to one or more authors on this paper.
13. Ought there be a canon of early modern philosophy? What should it look like?
14. 'Descartes' emphasis on the equality of Reason had less influence than his formative contribution to the ideal of a distinctive kind of Reason - a highly abstract mode of thought, separable, in principle, from the emotional complexities and practical demands of ordinary life.' Discuss.