

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS, PART IB

Friday 9 June 2023

09.00–12.00

Paper 9

AESTHETICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF ART

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.*

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**

1. EITHER: (a) Provide a Platonic defence of the thought that judgements of beauty are partial, interested and rational.

OR: (b) 'Is there any manner of reconciling the writer of so many beautiful pages, the immortal author of the Dialogues, and the high-priest of the Beautiful, with the castigator of Art?' Discuss.
2. Do you need knowledge of art's history to be in a position to perceive all of an artwork's aesthetic properties?
3. 'Judgements of aesthetic value are not, except within very narrow limits, transmissible from one person to another.' Discuss.
4. Is it a mistake to equate aesthetics with the philosophy of art?
5. Is there any set of properties that are individually necessary and jointly sufficient for something's being art?
6. Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* and Tacitus's *Annals* both put invented speeches in the mouths of historical figures and contain made up descriptions of real events. Should we regard them both as works of fiction?
7. 'The category of intention is as inescapable in speaking of objects of art as in speaking of what human beings say and do.' Discuss.
8. EITHER: (a) Can an ethical defect in an artwork ever be an aesthetic merit?

OR: (b) If art cannot give us moral knowledge, is it cognitively trivial?
9. Should the fact that an artwork is original make me value it more highly?
10. If I disagree with the judgements of Hume's ideal critics, does it follow that I have poor taste?
11. Does Kant give a convincing account of the 'universal voice' of aesthetic judgements?

END OF PAPER