

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Monday 28 May 2012

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 2

ETHICS AND 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.

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) 'Utilitarianism tells us to do what will actually produce the most good in the future; yet we never know what will actually produce the most good in the future, so utilitarianism is false.' Discuss.
Or (b) What is the most defensible form of utilitarianism? Does it work?
- 2 **Either** (a) If I have a right that you keep your promise to me, must it also be good for me that you keep that promise?
Or (b) What is the best consequentialist account of rights? is it convincing?
- 3 Is 'good' indefinable?
- 4 What role do emotions play in moral judgement? What implications does your answer have for the possibility of moral knowledge?
- 5 'Utilitarianism conflicts with intuition. So we should reject intuition.' Discuss.
- 6 What is the strongest argument against the existence of objective moral facts? Does it work?
- 7 Is rational egoism inconsistent?
- 8 Does morality presuppose the truth of psychological altruism?
- 9 Are consequentialist theories of punishment compatible with respect for persons?
- 10 'Retributivist theories of punishment are merely attempts to legitimise acts of revenge.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER