

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART IB OF THE PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS

Wednesday 31 May 2000

9 to 12

Paper 4

SET TEXTS

*Candidates must answer **four** questions, which must be chosen from **at least two sections**.*

SECTION A

- 1 Why does Socrates find Meno's attempts to define virtue inadequate? Is he justified?
- 2 Meno asks whether virtue can be taught. Does he get a good answer?
- 3 How helpful is the distinction between a priori and a posteriori knowledge in interpreting the *Meno*?
- 4 How successfully does Socrates in the *Meno* justify his assertion that 'the whole of searching and learning is recollection'?

SECTION B

- 5 'Once it is conceded that no causal truths can be known a priori, the argument from design collapses.' Does it?
- 6 Can we ever reasonably infer the cause of a unique object? How does this bear on the debate in Hume's *Dialogues*?
- 7 Why is Philo happy to concede the existence of God in Part XII of the *Dialogues*?
- 8 'Demea formulates the "a priori argument" for God's existence in a way which makes it a much easier target for Cleanthes than it need have been.' Discuss.

[TURN OVER]

SECTION C

- 9 Do the principles espoused in *On Liberty* support the legal sale to the public of heroin?
- 10 What limits did Mill place on the freedom of speech? Are they consistent with his defence of that freedom?
- 11 Does Mill genuinely 'forgo any advantage which could be derived to my argument from the idea of abstract right, as a thing independent of utility'?
- 12 What applications does Mill make in *On Liberty* of the principles he proposes there? How far do these help us to understand his aims?

END OF PAPER