

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

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Wednesday 27 May 2009

09.00 to 12.00

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Paper 5

**HISTORY OF MODERN 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) How convincingly does Avicenna argue for the necessity of the immortality of the soul?  
**Or** (b) According to Avicenna, what is the role of the active intellect in the process of intellectual thought?
- 2 How does the understanding of the soul as being the form of the body help Aquinas to avoid the problems of dualism?
- 3 **Either** (a) What role does 'leading the mind away from the senses' play in Descartes' *Meditations*?  
**Or** (b) Is there a central role for mathematics in Descartes' metaphysics as well as in his physics?
- 4 Could Descartes have accepted any other distinction between Mind and Body other than a *real* one?
- 5 **Either** (a) Is the Cartesian Circle really a circle?  
**Or** (b) Assess Descartes' arguments for the existence of God.
- 6 'For since the Things, the Mind contemplates, are none of them, beside it self, present to the Understanding, 'tis necessary that something else, as a Sign or Representation of the thing it considers, should be present to it; And these are Ideas' (LOCKE, *Essay* IV.xxi.4). Discuss.
- 7 **Either** (a) Is Locke right to claim that 'no body can, in earnest, be so sceptical as to be uncertain of the Existence of those Things which he sees and feels' (LOCKE, *Essay* IV.xi.3)?  
**Or** (b) 'But besides the assurance we have from our Senses themselves, that they do not err in the information they give us, of the Existence of things without us, when they are affected by them, we are farther confirmed in this assurance, by other concurrent Reasons' (LOCKE, *Essay* IV.xi.4). Discuss.
- 8 How would Berkeley respond to Cartesian Scepticism?
- 9 Can a Berkelian phenomenalist be an atheist?
- 10 Why do Berkeley's arguments against material substance not apply also to mental substance?
- 11 'Hume gives an account of the origin of our causal beliefs, not a theory of Causation.' Do you agree? Why would it be important for a proper understanding of Hume's philosophy?

[TURN OVER]

- 12 'The problem with Hume's account of the Self is a problem with his understanding of "identity".' Discuss.
- 13 Hume claimed that 'it is vain to ask whether there be body or not'. Is this, in any sense, a sceptical position?
- 14 'What is thinking?' Do any of the philosophers on the syllabus for this paper give a satisfactory answer to this question?
- 15 Do any of the philosophers you have studied for this paper make sense of existence unperceived?

END OF PAPER