

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Wednesday 30 May 2012

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 5

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL 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) What is the role of Boethius's understanding of eternity in his argument that God knows future contingent events?

Or (b) How does Boethius uphold the claim that someone who judges something to be otherwise than it is may none the less know it? How does he use this claim?
- 2 **Either** (a) What, in Ockham's view, is Scotus's argument to show how humans can will contingently? Are Ockham's arguments against this view conclusive?

Or (b) 'Ockham succeeds in solving the problem of divine prescience simply through an analysis of the logic of statements about the future.' Discuss.
- 3 **Either** (a) How new was the scepticism of Descartes's *First Meditation* in its arguments and aims?

Or (b) Analyse the proof of God's existence in Descartes's *Third Meditation*. Why did Descartes, at this point in his argument, choose to use this type of proof?
- 4 'The soul, which is the true substantial form of human being ...'
(DESCARTES) Discuss.
- 5 'Locke's theory of perception leads inevitably to scepticism.' Discuss.
- 6 What does Locke mean by the idea of 'substance in general' and is it coherent?
- 7 Compare Descartes's conception of the self with Locke's.
- 8 Why does Leibniz think that we should believe in monads? How plausible is his case?
- 9 **Either** (a) 'Leibniz's account of truth leaves him unable to distinguish the necessary from the contingent.' Discuss.

Or (b) What connection, if any, is there between Leibniz's logic and his metaphysics?
- 10 Critically assess Berkeley's views on **either** abstract ideas **or** secondary qualities.

- 11 To what degree can Berkeley provide an adequate account of other minds?
- 12 Is Hume an anti-realist concerning causation? Should he be?
- 13 'Hume is a projectivist about the self and his position is therefore incoherent.' Discuss.
- 14 Was Hume a cognitive scientist? Why, if at all, would the answer matter?
- 15 To what extent is the distinction between rationalism and empiricism a stable one? Discuss with reference to any **two** authors on the syllabus.

END OF PAPER