

## TRIPOS EXAMINATIONS 2010

### Part IB, Paper 5, History of modern philosophy

[22 January 2010]

Here are two sample questions on each of the new set-texts for IB, Paper 5:

#### Boethius

1. 'Boethius's solution to the Problem of Prescience requires one to accept an implausible theory of time.' Discuss.
2. Explain what Boethius means by 'conditional necessity'. How important is the idea in the argument of the *Consolation*, Book 5?

#### Ockham

3. What is Ockham's strongest argument against Scotus's view of the contingency of God's will? How successful is it?
4. How strong an objection is it to Ockham's solution of the Problem of Prescience that he cannot explain how God knows future contingents?

#### Leibniz

5. "Every world is like an entire world and like a mirror of God or of the whole universe" (LEIBNIZ). Evaluate Leibniz' reasons for advancing this doctrine.
6. "All that appears in the soul arises spontaneously in such a way that they correspond more particularly and more perfectly to what happens in the body which is assigned to it" (LEIBNIZ). Evaluate Leibniz' reasons for thinking that this remark provides the basis for a solution to the problem of how the mind and body can interact.