

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Monday 28 May 2018

09.00 – 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. How do ethical principles differ from those of etiquette?
2. Are ethical judgements more like desires than like beliefs?
3. Is it irrational to be insensitive to the suffering of others? Does it matter either way?
4. 'The claim that all actions are really self-interested can be given two possible interpretations. One is true but boring; the other is interesting but false.' Discuss.
5. 'If the moral status of an action is determined solely by its consequences, there is no class of actions that is wrong, no matter what its consequences. Therefore, the moral status of an action is not determined solely by its consequences.' Is this a good argument?
6. Could there be a kind of deontologist who accepts that in certain situations we ought to kill one to save five?
7. Is it viciously circular to define right action in terms of the characteristic actions of a virtuous agent?
8. 'To hire the most qualified candidate is to do an injustice to those who are naturally untalented.' Discuss.
9. 'People in a state of nature would be locked in a "war of all against all".' Is this true? Does it matter?
10. Can you be obliged to obey a law that is both immoral and contrary to your interests even if you are certain of never being caught? What implications does your answer have for the relationship between citizen and state?

END OF PAPER