

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Wednesday 30 May 2018

09.00 – 12.00

Paper 4

SET TEXTS

Answer **three** questions only, which must be chosen from **at least two sections**.

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**

SECTION A

1. 'But leave virtue whole and intact, and say what it is. I've given you the models, after all.' (PLATO) How useful are Socrates' models in explaining what he expects from a definition of virtue?
2. 'If a little humour is in order, what you comprehensively remind me of, both in appearance and in other respects, is that marine creature, the electric ray.' (PLATO) How apt is Meno's comparison?
3. 'People can come to appreciate geometrical facts without having been told them.' How does Socrates explain this fact in the *Meno*? Should we accept his explanation?
4. How much progress is made in the *Meno* towards finding out if virtue can be taught?

SECTION B

5. 'Indeed, that these hands themselves, and this whole body are mine—what reason could there be for doubting this?' (DESCARTES) Does Descartes present any good reasons for doubting this in the First Meditation?
6. Is Descartes best understood in the Second Meditation as *inferring* 'I exist' from 'I am thinking'?
7. Can Descartes explain how, if God exists and is not a deceiver, anyone can ever make mistakes?
8. 'I am really distinct from my body, and can exist without it' (DESCARTES). Am I? Can I?

SECTION C

9. A person 'cannot rightfully be compelled to do or forbear because it will be better for him to do so, because it will make him happier, because, in the opinions of others, to do so would be wise, or even right. These are good reasons for remonstrating with him, or reasoning with him, or persuading him, or entreating him, but not for compelling him, or visiting him with any evil in case he do otherwise.' (MILL) Discuss.
10. Does Mill succeed in showing that speech should be treated as a self-regarding action?
11. Is Mill right to describe the condition of women in his time as 'the primitive state of slavery lasting on'?

TURN OVER

12. EITHER (a) 'The moral regeneration of mankind will only really commence, when the most fundamental of the social relations is placed under the rule of equal justice, and when human beings learn to cultivate their strongest sympathy with an equal in rights and in cultivation.' (MILL) Does Mill give good reasons to think this true?

OR (b) What role does the idea of progress play in the argument of *On Liberty* and/or *The Subjection of Women*?

END OF PAPER