PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Monday 02 June 2008

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 4

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Answer three questions only, at least one from each section.

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

-2- PHT1/4

SECTION A: Plato's Republic

1 **Either** (a) How successfully does Plato argue that opinion 'lies between' knowledge and ignorance?

Or (b) 'In the *Republic* Plato rightly rejects the definition of knowledge as true belief bound by an explanatory account (*aitias logismos*).' Discuss.

- Does Plato succeed in answering Adeimantus' charge that philosophers are not fit to rule? Assess his arguments.
- Then we do them an injustice by making them live a worse life when they could live a better one' (*Rep.* 519d). Does Plato have good arguments for compelling the philosophers to return to the cave?
- 4 How consistent are the images of the line and the cave?
- 5 Can one make sense of the notion that the Good is 'beyond being'?

SECTION B: Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics

- Is Aristotle's account of virtue undermined by its dependence on the function argument (*NE* 1.7)?
- 7 Does Aristotle grant too much influence to the role of fortune in his account of *eudaimonia*?
- We must consider first, then, whether the acratic man acts knowingly or not' (*NE* 1146). Does Aristotle give a satisfactory answer to this question?
- 9 **Either** (a) Why does Aristotle think that 'justice is a kind of mean, but not in the same way as the other excellences' (NE 1133b)? Is he justified in his assessment?
 - Or (b) 'Virtue is a state that decides, consisting in the mean relative to us, which is defined by reference to reason' (NE 1106b). Explain and assess Aristotle's doctrine of the mean.
- Is Aristotle's account of friendship too exclusive?