

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

EXAMINATION FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE OF BA

JUNE 1999

FIRST PAPER

5704 PHILOSOPHY IB: MORALITY, SOCIETY & THE INDIVIDUAL

TIME: TWO HOURS

[In addition, candidates are allowed TEN minutes before the examination begins, to read the paper.]

**ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS,
ONE FROM SECTION ONE AND ONE FROM SECTION TWO.**

ANSWER EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE PAGE

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE

SECTION ONE

- 1 Is there any sense in which it is plausible to claim that our morals are in our genes? Defend your answer.
- 2 What is the evolutionary explanation for the fact that we care more for our family and friends than for strangers? Does it follow from this evolutionary explanation that we are morally obliged to give priority to family and friends over strangers? Defend your answer.
- 3 Is universal determinism an assumption used in, and required for, all thinking about the world? Is the truth of universal determinism adequately supported by the evidence? In answering this second question consider whether one could adequately show that determinism was sufficiently supported without considering the libertarian claim that some choices are not fully determined.
- 4 Assess the soft determinist position.
- 5 Assess the libertarian position.

SECTION TWO

- 6 What is the central principle which Mill argues for in his 'On Liberty'? Briefly indicate his arguments for it, indicating whether they are utilitarian or deontological. Assess this principle.
- 7 Discuss the issue of paternalism making at least some reference to Mill's view.
- 8 What is meant by positive and negative liberty or freedom? What does Richard Norman take to be the fundamental sense of freedom? What sort of conditions does he think are necessary for its achievement? Does he think that the attempt to lessen inequalities in society must involve a loss of freedom?
- 9 Discuss the issue of liberalism and communitarianism.

END OF EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

SECTION TWO (1998 paper 2)

- 1 What is the central principle which Mill argues for in his 'On Liberty'? How does he argue for it? Assess this principle.

- 2 Should the State ever try to justify a law on the ground that it will deter people from harming themselves?

- 3 Describe Norman's views on the concept of freedom, indicating in your discussion the sort of view he is opposed to. Which view is the more plausible one?

- 4 Discuss the issue of social (rather than legal) equality.

END OF EXAMINATION QUESTIONS