Gov 1060 Paper and Exam Questions  
Fall 2008

Paper 1

I. On Plato

1. What changed in Plato’s political thought between the Republic and the Laws?

2. Why does Socrates accept Glaucon’s characterisation of the first city in the Republic as a ‘city of pigs’?

3. Why did Plato wish to exclude poets and orators from his city?

II. On Aristotle

4. What role does the multiplicity of goods play in Aristotle’s ethical and political thought?

5. How did Aristotle justify slavery?

6. What is Aristotle’s ideal constitution? Would we regard it as democratic?

III. Comparative

7. What is the difference between Plato’s and Aristotle’s attitudes to education?

8. Compare Plato’s and Aristotle’s views about the role of private property in the state.

IV. None of the Above

9. Make up your own question and come and get it approved by one of us.

For guidance, please see the ‘Writing Guidelines’ sheet posted on the class website. Please hand in one 8-page paper in class on Monday 3 November.
Paper 2
Due in class Monday 15 December

1. To what extent does Epictetus advocate submission to the political authorities?

2. Is the wise man free?
   (Draw on Epictetus and anyone else you think relevant to give your own answer to this question)

3. How did Cicero reconcile what is *honestum* (honourable) with what is *utile* (expedient, useful)?

4. What kind of citizen did Sallust think was necessary to the success of the Roman Republic?

5. In what ways did Lactantius’s account of either property or justice differ from Cicero’s?

6. What did Lactantius think were the practical implications of his egalitarianism?

7. How far did the Roman Republic remain an ideal for Augustine?

8. What use did Augustine make of Sallust?

9. Make up your own question and get it approved by one of us (before 8 December).

Additional Instructions

• Please write the question you’ve chosen at the top of your paper (this is especially important if you make up your own question, but it goes for everyone)

• Make sure you structure your paper as a response to that particular question.

As always, feel free to ask questions / run your ideas by us any time in the run-up to the paper deadline (by email, in office hours or by appointment).

Have fun!
Please answer one question from each section. (Time allocated: 3 hours.)

Section 1

1. What role did ideas about artistic activity play in Greek political theory?

2. How successful in the end is Socrates’s answer to Thrasymachus?

3. What did Aristotle mean by ‘practical reason’? Is it a plausible basis for an ethical theory?

Section 2

4. Compare the views on the Roman Empire expressed by the Roman and early Christian theorists.

5. What were Augustine’s major objections to the ideas of earlier Christian political theorists?

6. How Aristotelian was Aquinas?

Section 3

7. What role did the idea of natural law play in ancient and medieval political thought?

8. Which is more use for thinking about politics: Greece or Rome?

9. What difference did a monotheistic world-view make to ancient and medieval political thought?
Please answer one question from each section. (Time allocated: 3 hours.)

Section 1

1. Discuss the role of myth and allegory in Plato’s Republic.

2. Compare Aristotle and Plato on demagogues, orators and politicians.

3. What is the theoretical point of Aristotle’s classification of regimes?

Section 2

4. Discuss the use made of the heroic stories from Roman history by the writers from Cicero to Augustine.

5. Compare Epictetus and Cicero as Stoics.

6. Which is the more authentic vision of Christianity: Lactantius, Augustine or Aquinas?

Section 3

7. Was there a distinctive ‘ancient’ conception of freedom?

8. What did you find the most plausible account of human happiness in the texts you have read?

9. How applicable/adaptable are Greek ideas about the polis to a wider setting?