

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS  
2015**

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Wednesday 22 April 2015

1.30 to 4.30

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Paper 1

HISTORICAL ARGUMENT AND PRACTICE

Answer ***one*** question.

Write your ***number*** (***not your name***) on the cover-sheet of each answer booklet.

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 Is British history simply the combination of Irish, Welsh, Scottish and English histories?
- 2 'Environmental history and economic history are necessarily linked.' Discuss.
- 3 To what extent have the hopes pinned to social history been realised?
- 4 'Postmodernist history is philosophically sound, but ethically bankrupt.' Discuss.
- 5 Should the history of religion be left to historical theologians?
- 6 How can research into visual and material cultures recast our sense of past societies?
- 7 'History as written by the Greeks and Romans is more different from than similar to modern historical writing.' Discuss.
- 8 Does a Marxist approach to history necessarily deny human agency?
- 9 Is 'total history' feasible in practice?
- 10 How far are distinctive methods necessary when studying sources from different periods?
- 11 Why was Whig History once so popular and why is it now so criticised?
- 12 How useful to the political historian are the public statements of politicians?
- 13 Why is context so important to intellectual historians?
- 14 'Nations are nothing but fictions invented by modern nationalists.' Discuss.
- 15 'Historians of gender should pay as much attention to age as to sex.' Discuss.
- 16 Who wrote history in the middle ages, and why?
- 17 How and why did the idea of transnationalism come to influence the writing of history?
- 18 Can the public history movement succeed in 'democratising' history?
- 19 'The history of political culture has rendered traditional political history irrelevant.' Discuss.
- 20 'International history deals with leaders and, as such, cannot transcend the limitations of biography.' Discuss.
- 21 'Revolutions don't repeat, but they do echo.' Discuss.

- 22 What can studying memory tell us about the formation of collective identities?
- 23 Is the concept of the Enlightenment inherently Eurocentric?
- 24 How, and why, might historians seek to 'provincialise Europe'? What is gained or lost in this approach?
- 25 Why do historians so often disagree about the extent of power wielded by specific agents and institutions in the past?
- 26 Is it possible to write a history of time?
- 27 'Race is a scientific fallacy but a social reality.' Discuss.
- 28 Can imperialism exist without empire?
- 29 Is World History necessarily 'big history'?
- 30 Which had greater consequences for the ways Europeans wrote history: the Renaissance or the Reformation?
- 31 To what extent is economic history 'semi-detached' with respect to mainstream history? Is it a problem?
- 32 What might historians gain or lose by a more widespread deployment of **either** quantification **or** oral history?
- 33 Has cultural history displaced the history of class?

**END OF PAPER**