

# Aristotle

## *Past Exam Questions*

- 1)
  - a) Explain Aristotle's view that happiness is an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue. (12 marks)
  - b) What do you consider the main reasons Aristotle gives in support of his claim that "happiness is contemplation"? (13 marks)
- 2) Explain and criticise Aristotle's doctrine of the mean, using examples where appropriate.
- 3)
  - a) Distinguish carefully between Aristotle's concepts of "involuntary", "non-voluntary", and "voluntary" actions. (12 marks)
  - b) What purpose does he intend his definitions to serve?(7 marks)
  - c) Do his definitions enable him to carry out his purpose?(6 marks)
- 4)
  - a) Describe Aristotle's concept of the good man. (12 marks)
  - b) Discuss whether or not Aristotle's good man will indeed be a good man? (13 marks)
- 5) Aristotle says in the Ethics that "some starting points are grasped by induction, some by perception ... others in other ways." Outline, and discuss critically, different methods of enquiry which Aristotle uses in the Ethics.
- 6) Aristotle sees ethics as a branch of politics, the end of which, he argues, must be "the good for man". In what sense, if any, is Aristotle concerned with the general good?
- 7) "For Aristotle prudence is the basis of all moral virtues". Discuss.
- 8) "Aristotle's Doctrine of the Mean does not give practical moral advice in the form of a rule or rule which should be followed. Instead what he provides is a description of selected virtues." Discuss.
- 9)
  - a) How does Aristotle seek to show that a person can know what is right and yet do what is wrong? (16 marks)
  - b) Is he successful?(9 marks)
- 10)
  - a) Describe the main features of Aristotle's doctrine of the mean. (10 marks)
  - b) Offer three criticisms of the doctrine. (15 marks)