

SP406 Principles of Political Theory

Answer THREE questions.

Time allowed: THREE Hours.

- 1) In your own words, what are Rawls' two principles of justice and how does he derive them?
- 2) Sandel argues that the concept of the 'self' presupposed by Rawl's account of the 'original position' is theoretically flawed. Explain.
- 3) MacIntyre's *After Virtue* is a critique of most modern political philosophy - especially the liberal variety. Give an account of this critique.
- 4) 'No social good x should be distributed to men and women who possess some other good y merely because they possess y and without regard to the meaning of x.' What does Walzer mean? How does this link to his theory of equality?
- 5) According to Taylor, what is unique about the modern liberal self? What are the normative implications of this?
- 6) Describe what society would be like if Etzioni's communitarian vision were realized. Is it a society which you would like to live in?
- 7) In *Political Liberalism* Rawls argues for a 'political' rather than 'comprehensive' interpretation of his concept of justice. What does he have in mind? In your opinion does this makes his principles of justice more acceptable?
- 8) Critically analyse Raz's perfectionist liberalism.
- 9) Do you find Rorty's relativistic liberalism convincing? Why?
- 10) Dworkin is frequently cited as the clearest advocate of liberal neutrality. Give a critical analysis of his position.
- 11) Give a libertarian critique of 'welfare' liberalism.
- 12) Mouffe argues that contemporary democracy should not seek to overcome the tension between liberty and equality. Why? Do you agree?