

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Friday 25 May 2012

13.30 to 16.30

Paper 1

METAPHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

*Answer **three** questions only.*

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer. If you are answering an either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

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 it an objective matter whether an event is a miracle?
- 2 What is the strongest form of scepticism about the external world, and what does it show?
- 3 **Either** (a) Is it more reasonable to think that if I throw a brick at a window, the window will break or to think that that the window will turn into a butterfly?

Or (b) How do the ravens paradox and the grue paradox relate to the problem of induction?
- 4 'All events seem entirely loose and separate. One event follows another; but we never can observe any tie between them. They seem conjoined, but never connected.' Given this picture, how can we explain causation?
- 5 'It does not matter whether determinism is true; the fact that we are subject to the same laws as everything else shows that we are not free.' Discuss.
- 6 **Either** (a) Is pain just whatever plays the role of pain?

Or (b) Where are your thoughts?
- 7 **Either** (a) Is survival what matters about personal identity?

Or (b) Are you your brain?
- 8 'Even the fool is convinced that something than which nothing greater can be conceived is in the understanding, since when he hears this, he understands it; and whatever is understood is in the understanding. And certainly that than which a greater cannot be conceived cannot be in the understanding alone.' Discuss.
- 9 Does the existence of evil entail that there does not exist an omniscient, omnibenevolent and omnipotent being? If not, what is the problem of evil?
- 10 If it was already true yesterday that you will answer this question, how can it be within your power not to?

END OF PAPER