PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS     Part IA

Friday 22 May 2015     13.30 – 16.30

Paper 1

METAPHYSICS

Answer three questions only.

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer. If you are answering the 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. Could psychological continuity be all that matters about personal identity?

2. Is ‘person’ a phase sortal?

3. EITHER (a) What evidence should persuade you that a miracle has occurred?

   OR

   (b) ‘A miracle is a contravention of a law of nature. A law of nature is a generalization that holds always and everywhere. So miracles are logically impossible.’ Discuss.

4. Can we reconcile the existence of God with the occurrence of the Lisbon Earthquake?

5. ‘Mental events have physical effects. Since every physical effect has a physical cause, it follows that mental events are physical events.’ Discuss.

6. Does explaining the existence of phenomenal consciousness require accepting the truth of dualism?

7. ‘A cause is an object, followed by another [...] where if the first object had not been, the second never had existed.’ Discuss.

8. In what sense, if any, are causes necessary for their effects?

9. Can we be morally responsible for something we couldn’t avoid doing?

10. ‘No one believes in determinism any more, so there is no longer a problem about free will.’ How plausible is this claim?

END OF PAPER