

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA**

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Friday 1 June 2018

13.30 – 16.30

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Paper 5

GENERAL

*Write a philosophical essay on **one** of the following topics.*

*Write the number of the topic on the cover sheet.*

**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. Descartes thought that animals were mere automatons or machines. Was he right?
2. What, if anything, can science contribute to the study of questions in metaphysics?
3. Should what we say about metaphysics be constrained by what we know to be true in ethics?
4. Is the development of artificial intelligence a good way to gain a better understanding of ourselves?
5. Are there any advantages to writing a work of philosophy as a dialogue?
6. Should philosophy be politically neutral?
7. Can metaethical sceptics continue to think ethically?
8. 'In philosophy, anything can be called into question, but not everything can be called into question at the same time.' Discuss.
9. What ethical principles should govern undergraduate admissions to universities?
10. 'The fact that all philosophical arguments rely on our intuitions means that philosophy can never give us knowledge of the world, only of ourselves.' Discuss.
11. Are Grice's views on speaker meaning just armchair speculations about the empirical subject of linguistics?
12. Is 'I exist' a contingent a priori truth?

**END OF PAPER**