

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IA

Friday 2 June 2017

13:30 – 16:30

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. 'The sentence "Nothing is red and green all over at the same time" is just as certain as "Everything is identical to itself". First-order logic captures the latter but not the former. So first-order logic should be rejected.' Discuss.
2. Is it necessary that something exists?
3. 'The problems of translating between natural languages and formal languages show that logic should only aim to represent the language of mathematics.' Discuss.
4. What do philosophical debates about political obligation imply for contemporary politics?
5. 'Philosophy leaves everything as it is. Feminism does not leave everything as it is. Therefore, feminist philosophy is either not really philosophy or not really feminist.' Discuss.
6. Does Socrates' method support or undermine the charge that he was a corrupter of youth?
7. Have we had enough of experts?
8. Is it virtuous to be sceptical?
9. 'When I write "Intuitively, p ", I mean just that it seems to me that p and that I do not intend to give any argument for p .' Discuss.
10. Can we reasonably hope to solve the problem of consciousness?
11. Does it matter if freedom is an illusion?
12. Could one's view about personal identity make a difference to how one lived?

END OF PAPER