

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Friday 25 May 2012

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 1

METAPHYSICS AND EPISTEMOLOGY

*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 **Either** (a) What is a transcendental argument? Can any such argument be used to defeat scepticism?
Or (b) 'Only idealism can give a satisfactory answer to scepticism. Idealism is incoherent. So scepticism can never be answered.' Discuss.
- 2 **Either** (a) Can an internalist about epistemic justification coherently endorse foundationalism about such justification?
Or (b) 'Externalist theories of epistemic justification are not really theories of *justification*.' Discuss.
- 3 How would you define *a priori* knowledge? Is there any such knowledge?
- 4 'If it is possible to have a hallucinatory experience that is subjectively indistinguishable from a veridical perception, then no visual experience can essentially involve a relation to a mind-independent object.' Discuss.
- 5 Are colours dispositions to produce experiences in us? If not, what are they?
- 6 **Either** (a) What is the minimalist conception of truth? Is it defensible?
Or (b) What is Tarski's theory of truth? What, if anything, is its philosophical significance?
- 7 Does the conceivability of 'zombies' rule out any form of materialism?
- 8 Is functionalism compatible with the type-identity theory of mind?
- 9 What does it mean to say that mental processes are computational? Is it true?
- 10 'Our ordinary concept of the mental applies to a mixed bag of unrelated features of human beings and other animals. There is no "mark" of the mental.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER