

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART II OF THE PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS

Wednesday 31 May 2000

1.30 to 4.30

Paper 6

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

*Answer **three** questions only.*

- 1 Does the raven paradox show that evidential support cannot be analysed in logical terms?
- 2 Does reliabilism vindicate the inductive justification of induction?
- 3 Are social sciences sciences?
- 4 Is the meaning of a theoretical sentence fixed by its observational consequences?
- 5 'The history of science shows that we are not justified in believing that even well-supported theories are strictly speaking true.' Discuss.
- 6 'Citing a cause of an event is all that is needed to explain it.' Discuss.
- 7 Assess the 'best system' account of laws of nature.
- 8 What is Lakatos's 'methodology of scientific research programmes'? Is it a good methodology?
- 9 Can scientific revolutions be properly assessed from the perspective of falsificationism?
- 10 'The theory-ladenness of observation amounts to no more than the fact that our observations are influenced by our beliefs; and as such it has no special significance for the study of scientific method.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER