

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART II OF THE PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS

Wednesday 30 May 2001

1.30 to 4.30

Paper 6

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

*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.

**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 On what does the inductive projectibility of an empirical hypothesis depend?
- 2 'If Karl Popper is right, scientists should never believe anything.' Discuss.
- 3 Does the observation of a white shoe confirm the proposition that all ravens are black?
- 4 Is observation always theory-laden? Does it matter?
- 5 When is it rational to abandon a research programme?
- 6 **Either** (a) What is the difference between explanatory and unexplanatory causes?
Or (b) What, if anything, is wrong with the Deductive-Nomological model of explanation?
- 7 What makes the difference between a law and a true accidental generalisation?
- 8 'Electrons don't really exist.' Discuss.
- 9 Do the social sciences follow a scientific method? Should they?
- 10 'Judgements as to which scientific method is best are value judgements.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER