PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS     Part IB

Thursday  29  May 2008  09.00 to 12.00

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 the 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. Can a sharp distinction be drawn between theoretical terms and observable terms? Does it matter?

2. 'Physical theories are just mathematical models we construct, and it is meaningless to ask if they correspond to reality, just whether they predict observations.' Discuss.

3. Is there a solution to Goodman's 'New Riddle of Induction'?

4. Does science need a theory of confirmation?

5. **Either**  
   (a) 'Causation is all in the head.' Discuss.  
   **Or**  
   (b) 'Probabilities are all in the head.' Discuss.

6. What is the difference between knowing that the Earth is round, and being able to explain why it is round?

7. Evaluate the following two claims:  
   (i) Laws do not explain their instances, on any regularity account of laws.  
   (ii) Laws do explain their instances on Armstrong's account of laws.

8. Is there any sense in which science is a social construct?

9. 'What is genuinely scientific for Kuhn is hardly science for Popper, and what is genuinely scientific for Popper is hardly science for Kuhn.' Discuss.

10. Are there any laws of nature?

END OF PAPER