

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB**

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Wednesday 26 May 2004

9 to 12

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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.*

**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 the link between causation and laws of nature?
- Or**        (*b*)    Critically assess the 'best system' account of laws of nature.
- 2     Can we interpret the probability that a proposition is true in terms of our degree of belief in that proposition's truth?
- 3     Are explanations arguments?
- 4     Is a hypothesis inductively confirmed by its instances?
- 5     Can scientific realism be assessed empirically?
- 6     'Scientific theories cannot be proved, but can be refuted.' Discuss.
- 7     Are exemplars as important to science as Kuhn supposes?
- 8     Is there an important difference between observing a table using spectacles and observing an electron using a cloud chamber?
- 9     'Science begins with observation and proceeds, via induction, to generalizations and theories.' Discuss.
- 10    'Science is a social construct.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER