

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Friday 31 May 2019

09.00 – 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 an either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer book × 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. 'All scientific explanations are causal explanations.' Discuss.
2. Are probabilities best accounted for in terms of rational degrees of belief?
3. Is the No Miracles Argument a convincing argument for scientific realism?
4. 'The history of science is full of theories which at different times and for long periods had been empirically successful, and yet were shown to be false. Therefore, by a simple (meta-)induction on scientific theories, our current theories are likely to be false.' Is this a good argument?
5. Are there good reasons to restrict belief in scientific theories to what they tell us about observable phenomena?
6. Is good science induction-free?
7. Is confirmation subjective?
8. How has physics updated our concept of time?
9. Are laws the crowning glory of science?
10. EITHER: (a) 'Philosophy is of no use to physics.' Discuss
OR: (b) 'All sciences will ultimately be reduced to physics. Therefore, science will become unified.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER