

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Monday 5 June 2017

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.

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**

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1. What, if anything, is the scientific method? Is it distinctive of science? Does science need it?
2. Is scientific realism undermined by the underdetermination of theory by data?
3. What is the strongest objection to constructive empiricism? Assess it.
4. 'If scientific revolutions exhibit Kuhnian incommensurability, science cannot attain truth about the natural world.' Discuss.
5. 'Reductionism has triumphed even though most of the objects it appeals to are unobservable.' Discuss.
6. Which account(s) of scientific explanation should we accept? Why?
7. Does evidence confirm a scientific theory only if it also disconfirms a rival?
8. In what sense(s), if any, are probabilities objective?
9. What interpretation of quantum mechanics do you consider the best one? Why is it best?
10. 'Henceforth space by itself and time by itself, are doomed to fade away into mere shadows, and only a kind of union of the two will preserve an independent reality.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER