

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Friday 27 May 2005

9 to 12

Paper 9

WITTGENSTEIN

*Answer **three** questions only.*

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer.

Candidates taking this paper may not answer questions on the Tractatus in Paper 1: Metaphysics.

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 Describe and assess the *Tractatus*'s treatment of quantification.
- 2 'Instead of, "The complex sign ' aRb ' says that a stands to b in the relation R ", we ought to put, "That ' a ' stands to ' b ' in certain relation says that aRb " (*Tractatus*). Discuss.
- 3 Is the *Tractatus* all a lot of nonsense?
- 4 Are there any reasons for believing in elementary propositions?
- 5 'It is interesting to compare the multiplicity of the tools in language and of the ways they are used ... with what logicians have said about the structure of language. (Including the author of the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*).'
Discuss.
- 6 What can we learn from the rule-following paradox?
- 7 'I want to keep a diary about the recurrence of a certain sensation' (*Philosophical Investigations*). What exactly are the problems I am going to encounter?
- 8 Explain Wittgenstein's concept of a 'family resemblance'. Does it help us with the problem of universals? Was it intended to?
- 9 'I contemplate a face, and then suddenly notice its likeness to another. I *see* that it has not changed; and yet I see it differently. I call this experience "noticing an aspect"' (*Philosophical Investigations* p. 193). Does Wittgenstein give a convincing account of aspect-seeing?
- 10 'I am inclined to believe that not everything that has the form of an empirical proposition is one' (*On Certainty*). Discuss.
- 11 'The queer thing is that even though I find it quite correct for someone to say "Rubbish!" and so brush aside that attempt to confuse him with doubts at bedrock, — nevertheless, I hold it to be incorrect if he seeks to defend himself (using, e.g., the words "I know")' (*On Certainty*). Discuss.

END OF PAPER