

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II**

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Monday 25 May 2015

13.30 – 16.30

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Paper 1

**METAPHYSICS**

*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 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. 'We cannot attach a clear meaning to the notion of organizing a single object (the world, nature etc.) unless that object is understood to contain or consist in other objects' (DAVIDSON). Does this observation undercut the very idea of a conceptual scheme?
2. EITHER (a) Does realism presuppose scepticism, or vice versa, or neither?  
  
OR (b) 'Sceptics presuppose an external world when stating their scepticism.' Discuss.
3. What is the point of transcendental arguments? Do they succeed?
4. Can there be particulars without universals? Can there be universals without particulars?
5. 'The distinction between abstract and concrete objects is a matter of degree rather than of kind.' Discuss.
6. EITHER (a) 'The law of causality, I believe, like much that passes muster among philosophers, is a relic of a bygone age, surviving, like the monarchy, only because it is erroneously supposed to do no harm' (RUSSELL). Discuss.  
  
OR (b) What is the 'problem of unmanipulable causes'? How can it be solved?
7. What would it take for time to have a direction?
8. What does McTaggart's argument for the unreality of time get right?
9. Is each of us identical to a human animal?
10. Are the persistence conditions for statues different from those for persons?

END OF PAPER