PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS     Part II

Tuesday 26 May 2015     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.
1. According to the best understanding of the general theory of relativity, is it a mistake to hold that space-time points are real?

2. Is the geometry of space-time a conventional matter?

3. What interpretation should be given to quantum mechanical probabilities?

4. In what sense, if any, does the empirical success of quantum mechanics force a picture of the world as ‘non-local’?

5. Can groups have knowledge which their members lack?

6. Should social science model itself on natural science?

7. How should we individuate different species?

8. Is an interconnected system of quaking aspen trees an organism? Why?

9. Does an explanation raise the probability of what it explains?

10. How can the fact that a hypothesis explains many phenomena make it a good explanation of any one of them?

END OF PAPER