PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Wednesday 27 May 2009 09.00 to 12.00

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.

The questions marked with an asterisk (*) may not be answered by candidates also offering Paper 9: Wittgenstein.

The questions marked with a dagger (†) may not be answered by candidates also offering a dissertation on the Philosophy of Mind.

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 'Realism is indefensible, but it is the only game in town.' Discuss.

2 Does belief in the perspectival nature of knowledge commit one either to relativism or to scepticism?

3 Either (a) Why should people be suspicious of the category of facts?
    Or (b) Do sentences typically represent facts?

4 Are there abstract objects?

5 'Causal mechanisms are one thing, causal explanations something else.' Discuss.

6 Can tenseless theories of time explain why tensed beliefs are useful?

7 What is the best defence of the view that one is not a brain in a vat?

8 Either (a) Are there necessary and sufficient conditions for being a person?
    Or (b) 'Some persons are not human and some humans are not persons.' Discuss.

†9 Either (a) How does one know what one thinks and feels?
    Or (b) Is there anything distinctive about self-knowledge?

†10 Can I perceive another's thoughts and feelings?

*11 How do Tractarian objects differ from Russellian sense data?

*12 'The World is my World.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER