PHILOSOPHY TRIPPOS  Part II

Thursday  31  May  2012    09.00 to 12.00

Paper 2

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

Answer three questions only.

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

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

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
Do I get knowledge of my own mental states by observation? If so, by observation of what?

'I can be mistaken in sincere self-attribution of belief, but not in a sincere self-attribution of pain.' Discuss.

'Knowledge of other minds is always inferential.' Discuss.

Examine critically the claim that the problem of consciousness can be solved by examining the features of the 'phenomenal' concepts we use to think about consciousness.

How would you explain and defend the view that all consciousness is a form of mental representation or intentionality?

Can we think about things that do not exist? If so, how is this possible?

'Only human beings can genuinely think, because only human beings have language and genuine thought requires language.' Discuss.

Are thoughts in the head?

Critically examine the view that indexical and demonstrative thought plays an essential role in our thought and action.

'For a physicalist, only type-identity can secure the causal efficacy of the mental.' Discuss.

'Are you not really a behaviourist in disguise? Aren't you at bottom really saying that everything except human behaviour is a fiction?' (*Philosophical Investigations §307). Explain why this question is being asked and why Wittgenstein responds as he does.

END OF PAPER