PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS  Part II

Monday 01 June 2009  09.00 to 12.00

Paper 8

PHILOSOPHICAL LOGIC

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 What exactly should a theory of meaning explain?
2 Either (a) Should meaning-theoretic considerations settle our logic?  
Or (b) Should meaning-theoretic considerations settle our metaphysics?
3 Could two translation manuals be both unimprovable and incompatible?
4 'Following a linguistic rule is just a matter of being disposed to use language in a certain way.' Discuss.
5 Either (a) What is the problem of co-tenability for counterfactuals? Can it be solved?  
Or (b) Should we accept the Adams Thesis about the probability of conditionals?
6 Either (a) Are plural terms really singular terms in disguise?  
Or (b) What is collective predication? Explain how it makes the logic of plurals non-trivial.
7 'Necessarily, water is H₂O; so the inference "The cup contains water. Hence the cup contains H₂O" is necessarily truth-preserving, and hence logically valid.' Discuss.
8 What sort of truths, if any, are true by convention?
9 How much of mathematics is based on intuition?
10 Is a structuralist philosophy of mathematics defensible?
11 Does Hume's Principle tell us all we need to know about numbers?
12 Either (a) What is the strongest version of the Indispensability Argument? What does it show?  
Or (b) Is mathematical knowledge of abstract objects impossible?

END OF PAPER