

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Thursday 31 May 2007

13.30 to 16.30

Paper 9

WITTGENSTEIN

Answer **three** questions only.

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

Candidates taking this paper may not answer questions on the Tractatus in Paper 1: Metaphysics.

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 'Logical pictures can depict the world' (*Tractatus* 2.19). Discuss.
- 2 In what sense, if any, was the author of the *Tractatus* a solipsist?
- 3 'The world of the happy is quite another than that of the unhappy' (*Tractatus* 6.43). Discuss.
- 4 Wittgenstein wanted the *Philosophical Investigations* to be published together with the *Tractatus* in one volume. How does reading the earlier work help us to understand the later one?
- 5 Is it misleading to think that Wittgenstein held a 'use theory of meaning'?
- 6 'Commanding, questioning, recounting, chatting, are as much part of our natural history as walking, eating, drinking, playing' (*Philosophical Investigations* 25). Discuss.
- 7 Explain and evaluate Wittgenstein's considerations concerning the possibility of a Private Language.
- 8 'It can be seen that there is a misunderstanding here from the mere fact that in the course of our argument we give one interpretation after another; as if each one contented us at least for a moment, until we thought of yet another standing behind it' (*Philosophical Investigations* 201). Discuss.
- 9 'It belongs to the logic of our scientific investigations that certain things are *indeed* not doubted' (*On Certainty* 342). Discuss.
- 10 'Does a child believe that milk exists? Or does it know that milk exists? Are we to say that knowledge that there are physical objects comes very early or very late?' (*On Certainty* 478–9). What answers to these questions does Wittgenstein suggest? Is he right?

END OF PAPER