PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS  Part II

Wednesday 28 May 2008  09.00 to 12.00

Paper 9

WITTGENSTEIN

Answer three questions only.

Write the number of the question at the beginning of each answer. If you are answering the either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

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
Describe and assess the logical atomism of the *Tractatus*.

'Any correct theory of judgment must show that it is impossible to judge a piece of nonsense' (*Tractatus*). Discuss.

Assess the 'new' (or 'resolute') reading of the *Tractatus*.

Did Wittgenstein's views about solipsism change from early to late? If so, how?

Is 'and so on' always an abbreviation?

Why do public languages not face the difficulties that Wittgenstein raised for private ones?

Either (a) What would a 'meaning-blind' person miss?

Or (b) 'What gives us so much as the idea that living beings, things, can feel?' (*PI* 283).

What is the relation between a desire and its object?

'To be rightly certain that \( p \) one needs to know that \( p \).’ What response to this claim is suggested by Wittgenstein's reflections in *On Certainty*? And is this response correct?

'I do not explicitly learn the propositions that stand fast for me. I can discover them subsequently like the axis around which a body rotates. This axis is not fixed in the sense that anything holds it fast, but the movement around it determines its immobility' (*On Certainty*). Discuss.

END OF PAPER