PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Thursday 1 June 2017 09.00 – 12.00

Paper 6

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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
1. ‘The collapse of the wave packet is not a physical fact, but only an appearance.’ Discuss.

2. In what sense(s) is quantum theory nonlocal? Is such nonlocality a problem?

3. ‘Biological function poses an insurmountable problem for evolutionary theory.’ Discuss.

4. Is ‘human nature’ a myth?

5. Is space-time a substance?

6. EITHER: (a) Discuss the relationship between symmetries and conservation laws.

   OR: (b) How, if at all, does convention appear especially in geometry?

7. EITHER: (a) Is rational choice theory descriptively plausible?

   OR: (b) Is rational choice theory normatively plausible?

8. Which, if any, presuppositions about values are acceptable in social science?

9. Can folk psychology be eliminated from cognitive science without self-refutation?

10. Compare and contrast the role of explanation in psychology and in neuroscience.

    END OF PAPER