PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS     Part II

FRIDAY 25 May 2018    09.00 – 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 implications does the inconsistency of Basic Law V have for the prospects of founding arithmetic on Hume’s Principle?

2. ‘Mathematics is the study of structures.’ What, if anything, does this explain?

3. EITHER: (a) ‘The existence of mathematical objects does nothing to explain the usefulness of mathematics to science. So the use of mathematics in science is no argument for Platonism.’ Discuss.

OR: (b) ‘Nominalist accounts of mathematics just trade ontology for ideology; they do not, therefore, constitute any real progress.’ Discuss.

4. What is the relation between ‘Jupiter has four moons’ and ‘The number of moons of Jupiter is four’?

5. What is 58 + 67? Is it just luck that we all get the same answer?

6. Could there be function signs which take plural argument terms to form plural value terms?

7. EITHER: (a) Explain how (if at all) Lewis’s triviality result bears on the semantics of indicative conditionals.

OR: (b) Which of Stalnaker’s and Lewis’ views of counterfactuals is to be preferred?

8. Are the laws of logic just a matter of convention?

9. Does the permutation argument tell us anything interesting about the reference relation?

10. Can you manifest a grasp of the meaning of a sentence that transcends your capacity to verify it in principle?

END OF PAPER