

PHT2/6
Philosophy Tripos Part II

Friday, 24 May 2024

09.00 to 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 the either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

*Write your candidate number, **not** your name, on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.*

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 to do so.

1. In what sense, if any, does quantum theory involve 'spooky action at a distance'?
2. If a quantum system is in a superposition of properties *A* and *B*, does it have property *A*, property *B*, both, or neither?
3. What role, if any, should metaphysics play in our understanding of physical theories?
4. Is geometry physical?
5. Which is prior, spatial points or spatial relations?
6. What role, if any, should value judgements play in our understanding of mental disorders?
7. **EITHER:** (a) To what extent, if any, are mental disorders natural kinds?

OR: (b) When, if ever, does a social group constitute a natural kind?
8. What is the most minimal conception of natural kinds that could be used in science?
9. How well do rational choice models represent human behaviour?
10. 'In economics, the term "preference" is a technical term not meant to fit the everyday meaning.' Discuss.
11. Should social science be judged solely on its ability to provide causal explanations of social phenomena?
12. Is there anything to 'human nature' beyond the nature of the human species?
13. 'Given an increase in time, species diversity increases.' Is this a biological law?
14. Are there any good arguments that only humans have consciousness?
15. 'There are no such things as beliefs or desires.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER