

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

12:00 noon BST Friday 28 May 2021 –
12:00 noon BST Saturday 29 May 2021

Paper 6

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Answer **three** questions only.

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

*For each question do not write more than **2000** words.*

1. In what senses, if any, can there be peaceful co-existence between quantum theory and special relativity?
2. 'The description of measurement given by the projection postulate is mathematically natural and experimentally confirmed.' Discuss.
3. What do Newton's thought experiments about the rotating bucket and the rotating globes show?
4. Is there a matter of fact about the one-way speed of light?
5. Is mental illness socially constructed?
6. What role should folk psychology play in the scientific study of the mind?
7. What, if anything, justifies the central role of rational choice modelling in economics?
8. What is the best argument for the distinctiveness of social sciences in relation to natural sciences? Does it succeed?
9. Do natural kinds have essences?
10. What is it for an institution or group to believe, intend, and do things?
11. How, if at all, can stating the function of a feature of an organism explain that feature?
12. Does the contingency of biological generalisations mean that they cannot be laws of nature?

END OF PAPER