

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS, PART II

Wednesday 7 June 2023

13.30-16.30

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

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. 'The "Everett interpretation" is just quantum mechanics itself, read literally as a direct description of the physical world.' Discuss.
2. EITHER: (a) Describe and assess the non-locality of Bohmian mechanics;

OR: (b) Describe and assess the non-locality of the Ghirardi-Rimini-Weber theory.
3. Which is more plausible: relationalism about space, or relationalism about spacetime?
4. 'Leibniz equivalence is a statement about what diffeomorphic models represent. But indeterminism is a matter of how many possible worlds there are. So the hole argument confuses semantics with metaphysics.' Discuss.
5. EITHER: (a) Are biological species natural kinds?

OR: (b): Can looping effects generate natural kinds?
6. What makes natural kinds natural?
7. Under what conditions, if any, do social groups exist?
8. Are our concepts of race and gender to be explained in the same way?
9. Is the principle of natural selection a law of nature?
10. How can the selected effects account make sense of vestigial functions?
11. Is it possible to know whether non-human animals are conscious?
12. Are mental disorders brain disorders?
13. 'Our common-sense conception of psychological phenomena constitutes a radically false theory.' Discuss.
14. 'The notion of revealed preference means that rational choice theory is a tautology.' Discuss.
15. Is there a plausible notion of value-freedom that economics should aim for?
16. 'Social sciences are sciences in name only.' Discuss.