

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Thursday 31 May 2001

9 to 12

Paper 1

METAPHYSICS

*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.

**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 Are all spatial facts just facts about the spatial relations of objects?
- 2 'The world is the totality of facts, not of things.' Discuss.
- 3 Is there a distinction between particulars and universals? is the distinction important?
- 4 'Any statement may be held true come what may, if we make sufficiently drastic adjustments elsewhere in the system.' Discuss.
- 5 Is it possible that you are a brain in a vat?
- 6 **Either** (a) Is there a standpoint from which the competing claims of different schemes of representation can be assessed?
Or (b) Is metaphysics possible?
- 7 **Either** (a) Is my thinking about my future the only reason for me to worry about the possibility of fission cases?
Or (b) 'The problem of personal identity over time is often stated in a way that favours some solutions over others.' Is it?
- 8 Is the self part of the world?
- 9 Space has three dimensions, time one. Is this significant?
- 10 Is knowing the mental properties of other beings any more problematic in principle than knowing their non-mental properties?
- 11 Can there be unconscious mental states?
- 12 Can philosophy be clearly distinguished from science and from religion?

END OF PAPER