

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Wednesday 31 MAY 2006

9 to 12

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.

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 'Electrons are just a useful fiction.' Discuss.
- 2 If our theory about electrons changes, does the meaning of the term 'electron' change too?
- 3 Does how we perceive the world depend on what we believe?
- 4 What is the difference between being able to predict that a phenomenon will occur and understanding why it will occur?
- 5 Are laws just regularities?
- 6 **Either** (a) What counts as evidence that all ravens are black?
Or (b) What makes 'green' inductively projectable and 'grue' not?
- 7 Did Popper solve the problem of induction?
- 8 When, if ever, does it become irrational to continue pursuing a scientific research programme?
- 9 Are paradigms as important to science as Kuhn supposes?
- 10 Are probabilities subjective or objective?

END OF PAPER