

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part IB

Thursday 29 May 2008

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.

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 Can a sharp distinction be drawn between theoretical terms and observable terms? Does it matter?
- 2 'Physical theories are just mathematical models we construct, and it is meaningless to ask if they correspond to reality, just whether they predict observations.' Discuss.
- 3 Is there a solution to Goodman's 'New Riddle of Induction'?
- 4 Does science need a theory of confirmation?
- 5 **Either** (a) 'Causation is all in the head.' Discuss.
Or (b) 'Probabilities are all in the head.' Discuss.
- 6 What is the difference between knowing that the Earth is round, and being able to explain why it is round?
- 7 Evaluate the following two claims:
 - (i) Laws do not explain their instances, on any regularity account of laws.
 - (ii) Laws do explain their instances on Armstrong's account of laws.
- 8 Is there any sense in which science is a social construct?
- 9 'What is genuinely scientific for Kuhn is hardly science for Popper, and what is genuinely scientific for Popper is hardly science for Kuhn.' Discuss.
- 10 Are there any laws of nature?

END OF PAPER