

**PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II**

---

Wednesday 27 May 2009

09.00 to 12.00

---

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.*

*The questions marked with an asterisk (\*) may not be answered by candidates also offering Paper 9: Wittgenstein.*

*The questions marked with a dagger (†) may not be answered by candidates also offering a dissertation on the Philosophy of Mind.*

**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 'Realism is indefensible, but it is the only game in town.' Discuss.
- 2 Does belief in the perspectival nature of knowledge commit one either to relativism or to scepticism?
- 3 **Either** (a) Why should people be suspicious of the category of facts?  
**Or** (b) Do sentences typically represent facts?
- 4 Are there abstract objects?
- 5 'Causal mechanisms are one thing, causal explanations something else.' Discuss.
- 6 Can tenseless theories of time explain why tensed beliefs are useful?
- 7 What is the best defence of the view that one is not a brain in a vat?
- 8 **Either** (a) Are there necessary and sufficient conditions for being a person?  
**Or** (b) 'Some persons are not human and some humans are not persons.'  
Discuss.
- †9 **Either** (a) How does one know what one thinks and feels?  
**Or** (b) Is there anything distinctive about self-knowledge?
- †10 Can I perceive another's thoughts and feelings?
- \*11 How do Tractarian objects differ from Russellian sense data?
- \*12 'The World is my World.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER