

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Monday 04 June 2012

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 the 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.*

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 Does the slingshot argument threaten an ontology of facts?
- 2 Are there any negative facts?
- 3 How, if at all, are properties related to particulars?
- 4 **Either** (a) Could time have a direction? If so, what would this involve, and how could we ever know that it has a direction?

Or (b) What, if anything, does McTaggart's argument for the unreality of time succeed in showing?
- 5 Can causation be understood in terms of raising of probabilities?
- 6 'To causally explain an event is to give information about its causal history.' Discuss.
- 7 In what sense, if any, are persons animals?
- 8 'The very notion of a bare particular is incoherent.' Discuss.
- 9 Is there a form of conceptual relativism that is both coherent and interesting?
- 10 Might you be a brain in a vat?
- *11 What does Wittgenstein in the *Tractatus* mean when he says that a proposition is a logical picture? What can be said in favour of this idea?
- *12 Explain and assess Wittgenstein's reasons for rejecting the 'subject that thinks or entertains ideas' in the *Tractatus*.

END OF PAPER