

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Monday 24 May 2010

09.00 to 12.00

Paper 2

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

*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.*

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 Is there an important distinction to be made between being conscious as such, and being conscious of something?
- 2 Could consciousness be physical without having a physicalist explanation?
- 3 **Either** (a) 'If the mind were not itself physical, it could have no physical effects.' Discuss.
Or (b) 'All forms of physicalism are reductive in one way or another.' Discuss.
- 4 Can there be thought without language?
- 5 Can there be an explanation of intentionality in causal or nomological terms?
- 6 What is meant by 'intentional content'? Critically examine the thesis that sensations are distinguished from other mental states on the grounds of not having intentional content.
- 7 'Everyone is presented to themselves in a way that they are presented to no-one else.' What does this mean? Is it true?
- 8 Does what I am thinking determine what I am thinking about?
- 9 Is the functionalist doctrine that mental states are distinguished by their causal roles incompatible with the doctrine that such states are identical with states of the brain?
- *10 What does Wittgenstein mean by a 'private language'? Does he provide a persuasive argument against the possibility of such a language?
- 11 **Either** (a) 'To understand other minds one needs a good imagination, not a good theory.' Discuss.
Or (b) 'The so-called "simulation-theory" is just a fancier version of the argument from analogy.' Discuss.
- *12 What changes when I shift from seeing the duck-rabbit picture as a duck picture to seeing it as a rabbit picture? Does the possibility of such shifts tell us anything about seeing?