PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Thursday 02 June 2011

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

– 2 – PHT2/2

- 1 'When I was in circumstances C, I decided to do F; Hero is in circumstances C; so Hero will decide to do F.' Is this a good kind of argument?
- 2 'The extreme complexity of the mind makes it unlikely that our understanding of mental states is based on theory.' Discuss.
- When I become aware of my own mental state, for example that I am a little hungry, am I thereby aware of myself?
- 4 'The word "I" expresses an indexical concept; so understanding how indexical judgments are based is the key to understanding first person knowledge.' Discuss.
- 5 **Either** (a) Critically assess the view that phenomenal consciousness is a form of mental representation.
 - **Or** (b) What is meant by 'phenomenal consciousness'? Is phenomenal consciousness just one kind of consciousness among others?
- Should thinking be understood as a relation between a thinker and the object(s) of their thought?
- 7 'Even if thoughts are in the head, meanings are not.' Discuss.
- 8 **Either** (a) What might be meant by saying that some concepts are simple and others are complex? Are there any simple concepts?
 - **Or** (b) Is it essential to the conceptual content of thought that it has a compositional structure?
- 9 What kinds of thoughts, if any, can beings without a language have?
- 10 'Non-reductive physicalists cannot make room for the causal efficacy of mental properties.' Discuss.
- *11 'Only I can know whether I am really in pain; another person can only surmise it. In one way this is wrong, and in another nonsense.'
 (WITTGENSTEIN) Discuss.
- *12 Why can't a dog simulate pain? Is it too honest?