

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Tuesday 28 May 2019

09.00 – 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 an either/or question, indicate the letter as well.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer book × 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. 'Any physical theory must use the notion of measurement. So there is no special problem about interpreting quantum theory.' Discuss.
2. Is energy conserved?
3. What is the biggest problem affecting the selected effects account of biological function? Can it be solved?
4. 'Quantum theory is a perfectly local theory. Although it predicts correlations between spacelike-separated events that cannot be screened-off, that should be no surprise.' Discuss.
5. EITHER: (a) What are rational choice models good for?
OR: (b) Should welfare economics rely on preferences?
6. 'Biology neither has nor needs laws.' Discuss.
7. What, if anything, marks an epistemically significant difference between social and natural sciences?
8. 'Scientists should avoid terms from folk psychology (such as "pain") when describing the capacities of nonhuman animals.' Do you agree?
9. Are all metric features of spacetime conventional?
10. Is cognition computation?

END OF PAPER