

PHILOSOPHY TRIPOS Part II

Friday 26 May 2017

09.00 – 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.

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 -

1. EITHER (a) Explain and critically assess the reasons for accepting the existence of 'thin particulars'.

OR (b) 'Properties are tropes, not universals.' Discuss.
2. 'The set of triangular objects is necessarily co-extensive with the set of trilinear objects. Therefore, nominalism is false.' Discuss.
3. Are we essentially animals?
4. Can the unity of consciousness explain the unity of persons?
5. How can we best explain the asymmetry of causation?
6. 'An event A is a cause of a distinct event B just in case bringing about the occurrence of A would be an effective means by which a free agent could bring about the occurrence of B.' Is this a sound analysis of causation?
7. EITHER (a) 'What is wrong with the notion of objects existing "independently" of conceptual schemes is that there are no standards for the use of even the logical notions apart from conceptual choices.'
Discuss.

OR (b) Is there a defensible form of internal realism?
8. Can we argue from what we can think to what there must be?
9. If time passes, what, if anything, does it pass?
10. Is extension in time analogous to extension in space?

END OF PAPER