

Wittgenstein and his Successors
Sample Tripos paper October 2020

Answer three questions.

1. "The mental world in fact is liable to be imagined as gaseous, or rather, aethereal." (WITTGENSTEIN, Blue Book) To what errors does this conception of the mental lead?
2. When I hear the word "cube" a schematic picture comes before my mind. But can the application of the schema come before my mind?
3. Explain the role of criteria in Wittgenstein's semantic theory of psychological ascriptions.
4. Could there be a diary that in principle only the diarist could understand?
5. What is Wittgenstein's solution to the rule-following paradox? Is it correct?
6. "We never directly perceive or sense material objects, but only sense-data." Did Austin succeed in refuting this claim?
7. "Suppose, for example, I see a vessel on the stocks, walk up and smash the bottle hung at the stem, proclaim 'I name this ship the Mr. Stalin' and for good measure kick away the chocks: but the trouble is, I was not the person chosen to name it. ... We can all agree: (1) that the ship was not thereby named; (2) that it is an infernal shame." (AUSTIN) Why, according to Austin, was the ship "not thereby named"? Why do we need the idea of "infelicity", in addition to the idea of falsehood?
8. "What distinguishes actions which are intentional from those which are not?" Does Anscombe have a good answer to this question?
9. Is "I" a name?
10. Compare Wittgenstein's and Austin's attitudes to ordinary language.