

BA EXAMINATION 2009

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

2. Epistemology and Methodology

**Friday, 8 May 2009:2.30pm -5.30pm**

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. EITHER (a) 'A belief is justified if it belongs to a coherent system.' Is there an account of coherence that makes this a satisfactory theory of epistemic justification?

OR (b) Assess foundationalism as a theory of epistemic justification.

2. According to Williamson, it is fruitless to 'attempt to state necessary and sufficient conditions for knowledge in terms of belief'. Is it?

3. 'Any argument for scepticism must rely on some epistemological principle, and any such principle is less certain than the fact that I know that there is an external world.' Does this show that there can be no convincing argument for scepticism?

4. Does contextualism explain the appeal of scepticism?

5. What role, if any, should sense-data have in an account of perception?

6. EITHER (a) 'Veridical and non-veridical sense experience can be phenomenally indistinguishable.' If this is true, what are the implications?

OR (b) Compare and contrast intentionalism and disjunctivism as theories of perception.

7. Can a priori knowledge be explained in terms of knowledge of meaning?

**TURN OVER**

8. EITHER (a) Is remembering adequately defined as having learned something and not forgotten it?
- OR (b) Are images ever an essential part of a memory?
9. EITHER (a) Is the mere fact that a belief is formed by a reliable process sufficient to justify the belief? Or must the believer have reason to believe that the process is indeed reliable?
- OR (b) Does knowing entail knowing that one knows?
10. Under what circumstances are you justified in believing that  $p$  on the grounds of testimony that  $p$ ?
11. Is introspection a species of self-observation?
12. How, if at all, can the traditional problem of induction be solved?
13. Does science give us good grounds to believe in the existence of any unobservable entities?
14. When does evidence confirm a hypothesis?
15. What are degrees of belief? What rational constraints, if any, apply to them?
16. Is there a symmetry between explanation and prediction?
17. Is the claim that every explanation must use general laws defensible?

**END OF PAPER**