

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

088 0130

**BA EXAMINATION 2009**

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

Optional subject (f): Philosophy of Science

**Wednesday, 13 May 2009: 2.30pm – 5.30pm**

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. 'Induction is the glory of science and the scandal of philosophy' (Broad). Do you agree?
2. Compare the verificationist and falsificationist concepts of science.
3. 'A green hat confirms the hypothesis that all ravens are black.' Discuss.
4. EITHER (a) Why do we need the 'Principle of Indifference' in the classical interpretation of probability? Is this a sound principle for determining probabilities?  
  
OR (b) Critically assess the 'frequentist' interpretation of probability.
5. To what extent is the Bayesian model of confirmation successful?
6. Describe Lakatos' methodology of Scientific Research Programmes.
7. Compare the role of natural laws in the deductive-nomological and inductive-statistical models of scientific explanation.
8. Explain and evaluate Nagel's account of intertheoretic reduction.
9. '[T]he fundamental laws of physics do not describe true facts about reality. Rendered as descriptions of facts, they are false; amended to be true, they lose their fundamental, explanatory force' (Cartwright). Discuss.

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10. What is the pessimistic (meta)induction? Does it undermine scientific realism?
11. How persuasive is the 'No Miracles Argument' as a defence of scientific realism?
12. Discuss the merits and demerits of the Mill-Ramsey-Lewis account of the laws of nature.
13. 'Normal science is like puzzle solving' (Kuhn). Discuss.
14. To what extent and why are scientific revolutions irrational according to Kuhn?
15. What does a feminist approach bring to the philosophy of science?

**END OF PAPER**