

BA EXAMINATION 2008

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

1. Logic and Metaphysics

Friday, 2 May 2008: 14.30-17.30

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers. Questions beginning with * may not be answered by students taking the Philosophy of Science exam. Questions beginning with ** may not be answered by students taking the Mind exam.

1. Assess the view that a proper name has the same meaning as a definite description.
2. EITHER (a) 'To the sign there corresponds a definite sense, and to that in turn a definite reference' (Frege). Discuss.

OR (b) Does the notion of sense supply the key to solving Frege's puzzle about the Morning Star and the Evening Star?
3. Do definite descriptions in English have both 'referential' and 'attributive' uses?
4. 'The English conditional cannot mean the same as the logician's sign \supset . For if it did, the existence of God would follow from the falsity of "If God exists, the prayers of the wicked will be answered".' Assess this argument.
5. What sort of modality, if any, is implicit in the notion of logical consequence?
6. Does the paradox of the heap show that the relation of entailment is not transitive?
7. 'There must be more to the notion of truth than the redundancy or minimalist theory allows. For "It is not true now that George W. Bush will start World War III" does not entail that George W. Bush will not start World War III.' Assess this argument.
8. Are there subjective facts?

TURN OVER

- **9. EITHER (a) Has Kripke shown that a pang of pain cannot be identical with a physiological event?
- OR (b) 'According to epiphenomenalism, any two people with the same brain states will have the same mental states. So epiphenomenalism agrees with the physicalist doctrine that the mental supervenes on the physical.' Discuss.
10. EITHER (a) Could I have done otherwise than I have actually done?
- OR (b) 'Freedom is a form of causal power.' 'Freedom is threatened by causal power.' Are these claims consistent? Is either of them true?
11. Are there any contingent propositions that are knowable *a priori*?
12. 'In "Two Dogmas of Empiricism", Quine did not show that it is impossible to distinguish between analytic and synthetic statements. But he did show that the distinction could not explain what previous philosophers had taken it to explain.' Discuss.
13. EITHER (a) 'A can be the same human being as B without being the same person as B. So identity is relative to a sort or kind.' Discuss
- OR (b) 'As a matter of fact, the statue is identical with the lump of clay from which it is made. But it could easily have been distinct from that lump. So there are cases of contingent identity.' Discuss.
14. Must every substance belong to a kind?
15. Do you have temporal parts?
16. Do universals exist? Or are tropes the fundamental alphabet of being?
17. EITHER (a) What are the *relata* of causation?
- OR (b) Can it be true to say that smoking causes cancer when some smokers never get cancer?
- **18. 'Properties that are not identical with physical properties cannot cause physical effects.' Discuss.
- *19. What is a law of nature?
20. Did McTaggart show that time is unreal?
21. Could there be a possible world with no physical object in it?

END OF PAPER