

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

088 0280

BA EXAMINATIONS 2008

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (u): Philosophy of Psychology

Thursday, 1 May 2008:14.30-17.30

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. 'The Rat Man's delusory conviction that his father would be subjected to the rat torture made him anxious, depressed, and obsessional. It cannot be right to regard such a symptom as fulfilling his wishes.' Discuss.
2. EITHER (a) Critically assess Grünbaum's charge that Freud's analysis of his dream of Irma's injection rests on a fallacy of thematic affinity.

OR (b) Do connections between psychoanalysis and commonsense psychology offer significant support for psychoanalytic claims?
3. EITHER (a) Does Freud explain the production of a symptom or dream as a kind of action which is rational?

OR (b) Does Freud explain our tendency to believe what suits us, as opposed to what is supported by evidence?
4. Is the concept of an unconscious emotion coherent?
5. Should we expect categories of commonsense psychology to play an indispensable role in scientific accounts of cognition?

TURN OVER

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6. EITHER (a) Critically assess the claim that autism is a form of *mindblindness*.
OR (b) What reasons are there, if any, to suppose that humans have an innate Theory of Mind Module?
7. Do the communicative difficulties encountered by Asperger's syndrome subjects tell us anything about the basis of linguistic competence in normal subjects?
8. EITHER (a) Are cognitive capacities really computational capacities?
OR (b) 'If computation is formal symbol manipulation, then human cognition is not computation.' Discuss.
9. 'Psychological theories are confirmed by behavioural evidence. A form of behaviourism must therefore provide the most basic philosophy of psychology.' Discuss.
10. Is Chomsky right to hold that linguistics is a branch of psychology?
11. Do poverty of stimulus arguments show that children do not really learn their first language?
12. 'The hypothesis that the mind is massively modular is either interesting and false, or plausible but trivial.' Discuss.
13. Can we make reliable inferences from what we know about our evolutionary past to the cognitive abilities of contemporary humans?
14. Is there a distinction between innate and acquired traits which is useful or important for cognitive science?
15. Do 'mirror neurons' explain how human beings are able to understand one another?
16. EITHER (a) Does seeing require visual awareness?
OR (b) Does the discovery of two visual pathways in the brain support the claim that there is more than one kind of visual content?

END OF PAPER