

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

088 0130

BA EXAMINATION 2008

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (f): Philosophy of Science

Tuesday, 6 May 2008:14.30-17.30

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Must a scientific explanation involve a law?
2. Can one scientific theory ever be reduced to another?
3. What distinguishes a scientific from a pseudo-scientific theory?
4. Does Popper provide an adequate response to the problem of induction?
5. Does Bayes' Theorem help us to understand scientific inference?
6. 'Objective probability is essential to physics, but is not well-understood.' Discuss
7. 'Physics is the most fundamental science.' Discuss.
8. 'There is no reason to suppose that electrons exist.' Discuss.
9. How do laws differ from accidentally true generalizations?
10. Where does observation end and theory begin?
11. 'All past scientific theories have turned out to be wrong. So, current theories are wrong too.' Discuss.
12. What does Newton's bucket experiment show?

TURN OVER

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13. 'Causality, I believe, is a relic of bygone age, surviving, like the monarchy, only because it is erroneously supposed to do no harm . . .' (Russell). Discuss.
14. 'Scientific theories are as often accepted on ideological as evidential grounds.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER