

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2007

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

2. Epistemology and Methodology

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. 'Knowledge is a fundamental kind of mental state.' Discuss.
2. Can the sceptic be answered by denying that knowledge is closed under known logical implication?
3. Can contextualism about knowledge be used to answer the sceptic?
4. Critically evaluate the thesis that knowledge is truth-tracking.
5. 'If any belief is to be justified, some beliefs must be basic.' Discuss.
6. What, if anything, is proved by the argument from illusion?
7. How do perceptual states contribute, if at all, to the production of justified belief?
8. 'Reliabilism is our best theory of justified belief.' Discuss.
9. Under what conditions is someone who has been told that *p* justified in believing that *p*?
10. What connection is there, if any, between the *a priori* and conventions of language?
11. Do you know that *p* if you have learnt that *p* and not forgotten it?
12. Should the idea of an epistemic State of Nature be used in explaining the concept of knowledge?

TURN OVER

13. Could introspective knowledge of your mental states be a form of self-perception?
14. What is the traditional problem of induction and how might it be solved?
15. 'Rational degrees of belief should conform to the probability calculus.' Discuss.
16. 'The Lottery and Preface paradoxes show that rational belief is not closed under entailment.' Discuss.
17. 'Whatever suffices for explanation suffices for prediction, and vice versa.'
Discuss.
18. 'Just as brown droppings, ripped food packaging and gnawed wiring give us good grounds for supposing there is a mouse in the house, so various experimental results give us good grounds for supposing electrons exist.' Discuss.
19. Critically discuss at least TWO reactions to the Ravens Paradox.

END OF PAPER