

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

### BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

### PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (n): The Philosophies of Frege, Russell and early and late Wittgenstein, together with their various 19th and 20th century precursors and followers

Answer THREE questions. Ensure that you choose questions in such a way that you show knowledge of at least two philosophers. (Early Wittgenstein and late Wittgenstein count as two philosophers.)

1. Are Frege's objections to Mill's empiricist justification of arithmetic decisive?
2. 'Since the Context Principle tells us that there is no more to the reference of a term than its contribution to the truth or falsity of sentences in which it occurs, it cannot offer the necessary support for Frege's platonism about numbers'. Discuss.
3. Does Frege heed his own warning never to lose sight of the distinction between concept and object?
4. If we take the sense of a linguistic expression to be a way of thinking of its reference, can we still conceive of senses as being objective and communicable as Frege supposed?
5. How satisfactory are Russell's grounds for counting the uses of 'this' and 'that', but not uses of 'Monet' and 'Turner', as uses of genuine proper names?
6. EITHER (a) Explain and evaluate Russell's analysis of the two readings of the sentence 'I thought your yacht was longer than it is'.  
  
OR (b) Does Russell provide an adequate solution to the problem of the informativeness of identity statements?

7. In what sense is Russell's logical atomism 'logical'? In what sense is it 'atomistic'?

8. In light of his commitment to the claim that the immediate objects of experience are confined to sense-data, explain and evaluate Russell's response to the traditional problem of our knowledge of the external world.
9. Expound and assess Wittgenstein's argument in the Tractatus that there must be simple objects.
10. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Wittgenstein's conception in the Tractatus of a proposition as a picture of reality?
11. In the Tractatus Wittgenstein claims that the reason why philosophy must acknowledge the metaphysical subject is the fact that 'the world is my world'. Explain and evaluate this claim.
12. Explain and evaluate Wittgenstein's view in the Tractatus that logical propositions lack sense but are not meaningless.
13. In order to grasp a rule, must one interpret it?
14. 'Inner processes stand in need of outward criteria'. What does Wittgenstein mean by this claim? Is it true?
15. 'The private language argument is unacceptably verificationist'. Discuss.
16. Does Wittgenstein's notion of a language-game present a serious challenge to theoretical analyses of language?
17. Is there an adequate response to scepticism about the existence of the external world in Wittgenstein's On Certainty?

END OF PAPER