

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2006

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

1. Logic and Metaphysics

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. How can one say something true or false about what does not exist?
2. 'According to Russell, someone who says "The train is late" asserts that there is exactly one train. But this is absurd, therefore Russell's theory should be rejected.' Discuss this objection.
3. When an identity statement conveys information, what is this information about, and how is it conveyed?
4. 'Proper names cannot be synonymous with definite descriptions because all proper names are rigid designators and no definite descriptions are.' Is this a good argument?
5. Expound and assess the view that all necessary truths are analytic.
6. Must disagreement over basic logical laws show a lack of common understanding of logical terms?
7. Are events particulars? If they are, how do they differ from other particulars? If they are not, what are they?
8. 'Physicalism is the view that all facts are *determined* or *exhausted* by the physical facts. Supervenience theses, on the other hand, only describe the *correlation* of one kind of fact with another kind of fact. Therefore physicalism should not be expressed in terms of supervenience.' Discuss.
9. 'Consciousness cannot be realised by the physical since there could be a physical duplicate of me which had no consciousness.' Discuss.

TURN OVER

10. 'Since there clearly can be persons which are not animals, the concept of an animal cannot be used to tell us what a person is.' Discuss.
11. EITHER (a) Can we explain the fact that two objects are both, say, square in terms of the fact that they belong to the class of square things?

OR (b) 'A universal is a one over many.' Does this provide an adequate account of the nature of universals? If not, how are they best characterised?
12. What is Leibniz's Law of the indiscernibility of identicals? Is it compatible with the fact that objects can change their intrinsic properties?
13. Is counterfactual dependence between A and B necessary and/or sufficient for a causal relation to hold between A and B?
14. Should the phenomenon of vagueness force us to abandon bivalence?
15. 'People are free agents as animals are not, because people are capable of rationality as animals are not; so perfect rationality would bring with it perfect freedom.' Discuss.
16. Assess critically the claim that we have to have a substantial conception of facts if we are to accept that truth is correspondence with the facts.
17. What is the direction of time? How should it be explained?
18. 'Statements about the past are just statements about our present evidence about past events.' Discuss.
19. Could I survive through there being a person in the future who lacks my body but has all my memories, personality, projects and character?

END OF PAPER