

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Logic and Metaphysics

Answer THREE questions. Students taking the optional paper (c), Philosophy of Mind, may not answer question 17, marked with an asterisk.

1. What is Frege's puzzle of identity? Explain and assess a metalinguistic solution to the puzzle.

2. EITHER (a) 'Understanding a proper name is a matter of knowing what the reference of the name is.' To what extent is this claim defensible?

OR (b) Does the claim that proper names are rigid designators capture the special semantic properties of proper names?

3. How does Russell motivate his theory of definite descriptions? Are there any conclusive objections to the theory?

4. EITHER (a) Can truth be defined?

OR (b) What can be said for and against the view that truth is correspondence with reality?

5. EITHER (a) What is the relation between the statement 'Quine might have been a professional tennis player', and the statement 'There is a possible

world in which Quine is a professional tennis player'?

OR (b) 'We cannot stipulate that two individuals in different possible worlds are identical, for the same reason that we cannot stipulate that baby Aristotle and mature man Aristotle are one and the same person. Thus we need some criterion of identity throughout possible worlds.' Discuss.

6. Are there any good reasons for thinking that all necessary truths are knowable a priori?

7. What reason is there to think that, unless there were tensed facts, there would be no time?

8. EITHER (a) How can we best explicate the supposed distinction between particular and universal?

OR (b) 'There are properties, but the only properties there are are natural properties.' Discuss.

9. EITHER (a) Does change involve one and the same thing having incompatible properties at different times?

OR (b) Does my surviving from one day to the next presuppose that I am numerically identical to the thing which thus survives?

10. 'If it is incompatible with an action's being free that it is caused, and insufficient that it is uncaused, what is it for an action to be free?' Discuss.

11. 'The way to solve the problems of vagueness is to sharpen all vague terms: that is, to say exactly what the extension of a term is.' What, if anything, is wrong with this view?

12. Do indicative conditionals have truth conditions?

13 Is there a satisfactory logical analysis of the counterfactual conditional?

14. 'Causes are not always necessary for their effects, nor do even complete causes always necessitate their effects; the central idea of causality is, rather, that effects arise out of, derive from or come from their causes.' (G.E.M. Anscombe) Discuss.

15. EITHER (a) Are objects bundles of qualities?

OR (b) What is a sortal concept? What significance (if any) attaches to sortal

concepts in a treatment of the individuation of physical objects?

16. EITHER (a) Are events concrete particulars?

OR (b) When are events identical?

17.* EITHER (a) 'I could exist independently of my body. Therefore materialism is false.' Discuss.

OR (b) Are mental facts nothing over and above physical facts?

END OF PAPER