

BA EXAMINATION 2002

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (u): Philosophy of Social Science

Thursday, 2 May 2002: 10.00 – 1.00

Answer THREE questions. Candidates taking optional paper (t) Philosophy of Psychology may NOT attempt question 12, marked with an asterisk. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Can Darwinist models of explanation be successfully applied to human behaviour?
2. Are there corporate individuals? If so, does this show that methodological individualism is false?
3. What is a social fact?
4. Explain and evaluate the thesis that social reality is constructed.
5. 'Methods of explanation in history bear no relation to methods of explanation in the natural sciences.' Discuss.
6. What is functionalism in social science? Is it defensible?
7. Can social science be value free? Should it be?
8. Are there universal principles of rationality?
9. 'Objectivity in anthropology is impossible. One cannot study a society without changing it.' Discuss.
10. Show how Popper's demarcation criterion applies to social science. What should we conclude from this?
11. Does geography raise any philosophical issues?
- *12. 'Psychoanalysis might help some people feel better, but it offers no guide to understanding the world.' Discuss.
13. Should social science inform social policy?

END OF PAPER