

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional Subject (t): Philosophy of Psychology

Answer **THREE** questions including questions from at least **TWO** sections.
Candidates taking Optional Paper (c), Philosophy of Mind, may **NOT** attempt questions from Section A, marked with an asterisk.

SECTION A

1.* What is intentionality? Can it be accounted for in naturalistic terms?

2.* **EITHER** (a) What, if anything, justifies my claim to first-person authority about what I think?

OR (b) Is first-person authority about the contents of mental states compatible with the claim that content is determined by relations to the physical and social environments?

3.* 'Metaphor is a central aspect of thought'. Discuss.

4.* 'Commonsense psychology must either prove reducible to physical science or eliminable in favour of it'. Discuss.

5.* Does dividing the mind help us explain behaviour? If so, how?

SECTION B

6. **EITHER** (a) 'Commonsense psychological explanation depends on the ascription of rational motives. Psychoanalysis, therefore, cannot be an extension of commonsense psychology'. Discuss.

OR (b) Compare and contrast a Freudian explanation of dreams and/or symptoms with a Davidsonian explanation of action.

7. Critically assess Freud's claim that the infant's sucking at the breast is to be regarded as sexual.

8. Explain the difference between the paranoid-schizoid position and the depressive position. Is it reasonable to claim that such processes exist in the first six months of life?

9. Discuss one or more of the following claims.

(i) Psychoanalytic theory is unfalsifiable.

(ii) Psychoanalytic theory does not admit of inductive support.

(iii) Psychoanalysis is a pseudoscience.

10. 'Unconscious motives are actively kept from consciousness. So self-deception is the primary concern of psychoanalysis'. Discuss.

11. EITHER (a) Describe Freud's reasoning in his analysis of the dream of Irma's injection, and use it to explain some (or all) of the following:

(i) displacement

(ii) condensation

(iii) wish-fulfillment

(iv) unconscious hostility

(v) ambivalence

(vi) unconscious guilt

OR (b) Critically discuss Freud's conception of the transference, with reference to Freud's interpretation of the Rat Man.

12. EITHER (a) Does wish-fulfillment involve beliefs and desires? If not, how might it work?

OR (b) What is the dreamwork, and how does Freud support his claims about it? Does Freud succeed?

SECTION C

13. If connectionist networks turned out to provide the most accurate models of our cognitive processes, would that show that we have no beliefs?

14. 'Connectionism is not a genuine rival to classical AI because connectionist models cannot explain the systematicity of cognition'. Discuss.

15. 'Human cognitive capacities are computational capacities'. What does this mean? Is it true?
16. 'The study of language is not the study of behaviour. Its concern is the internal workings of the human mind'. Discuss.
17. What grounds, if any, does Chomsky have for taking human language users to have innate knowledge of universal grammar?
18. 'The psychological explanation of a speaker's linguistic competence departs from the kind of rational explanation at work in folk psychology'. Discuss.
19. Does the visual system have a unique function? What consequences does the answer to this question have for an account of visual cognition?
20. What can we learn about normal visual experience from the phenomena of blindsight and/or visual agnosia?

END OF PAPER