

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 reasons, if any, have we to take commonsense psychology to be cogent?

2.* EITHER (a) What is first-person authority, and what justifies us in thinking we have it?

OR (b) 'If externalism is true then we must have first-person authority about the environment, and this is absurd.' Discuss.

3.* EITHER (a) How can we explain irrationality by reference to an agent's reasons?

OR (b) Does dividing the mind serve to explain irrationality?

4.* Assess the claim that metaphor is an important mode of cognition.

SECTION B

5. EITHER (a) 'Freud's concept of wish fulfilment is absurd, because wishes are never actually fulfilled in dreams.' Discuss.

OR (b) What is phantasy, and what role does it play in psychoanalytic explanation?

6. EITHER (a) What are condensation and displacement, and how does Freud justify his account of them?

OR (b) What is repression, and how does Freud justify his account of it?

7. Discuss one or more of the following:

(i) Psychoanalytic theory is unfalsifiable.

(ii) Psychoanalytic theory is not inductively supportable.

(iii) Psychoanalysis is a pseudo-science.

8. EITHER (a) Is there good reason for holding that an infant has phantasies in the first months of life?

OR (b) What does Freud mean in saying that an infant's pleasure in sucking is sexual, and what grounds has he for saying it?

9. Assess how one or more of the concepts below can be used in explaining clinical material found in Freud's writings.

- (a) Transference
- (b) Fear of castration
- (c) Projection
- (d) Projective Identification
- (e) The paranoid-schizoid position.

SECTION C

10. What does it mean to say that cognitive capacities are computational capacities?
Should we accept this claim?

11. EITHER (a) Assess Chomsky's grounds for holding that human beings have innate knowledge of universal grammar.

OR (b) Is Chomsky's reply to Skinner a decisive objection to behaviourism?

12. EITHER (a) 'The satisfaction conditions of desires and the truth-conditions of beliefs can be explained by natural selection.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'A computational account of cognition will provide no explanation of intentionality.' Is this true? Is it an objection to computationalism?

13. Expound and criticise either the Simulationist or the Theory-theory account of our understanding of minds.

14. EITHER (a) 'Connectionism cannot explain the systematicity of cognition.' Discuss.

OR (b) 'Connectionist systems cannot be provided with a truth-conditional

semantics.' Discuss.

15. EITHER (a) In what sense, if any, is the mind modular?

OR (b) 'Evolutionary considerations suggest that the mind is massively modular.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER