

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA EXAMINATION 2007

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (f): Philosophy of Science

Answer **THREE** questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. How do accidental generalizations differ from laws of nature?
2. Can Bayesians give an adequate explanation of confirmation of scientific theories?
3. What is objective probability?
4. 'When a change in scientific theory involves a change in paradigm, that change cannot be wholly rational.' Discuss.
5. What, if anything, is wrong with the covering-law model of explanation?
6. Can any scientific theory be shown to be certainly true?
7. Evaluate the relative merits of the syntactic and semantic accounts of scientific theories.
8. 'The pessimistic meta-induction from past falsity is fatal to scientific realism.' Discuss.
9. What is 'structural realism'? Does it provide an advance on other forms of scientific realism?
10. In what sense, if any, is physics the most basic of sciences?
11. 'The notion of causation plays no role in sciences such as theoretical physics.' Discuss.
12. Is science value-free?
13. Are there any good arguments for absolute space?

14. Discuss with reference to Popper and/or the positivists the question of how science can be demarcated from non-science.

15. Is the notion of 'conjectural knowledge' a coherent one?

END OF PAPER