

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0045

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Epistemology and Methodology

Tuesday 27 May 2008: 2.30 – 5.30pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Are physical objects ever seen directly?
2. Is there any reason to believe that there is an external world? If so, what is it? If not, does it follow that belief in an external world is epistemically irrational?
3. 'Epistemically justified belief is simply belief that is sustained by sufficiently reliable psychological processes.' Discuss.
4. 'An enquiry into whether *P* achieves its goal if the subject ends up believing truly that *P*, if *P*, and believing truly that not-*P*, if not-*P*. But the goal of enquiry is knowledge. So knowledge is simply true belief.' Discuss.
5. In what sense, if any, is empirical knowledge founded upon what we can observe?
6. 'The settlement of opinion is the sole objective of enquiry.' Discuss.
7. Assess the rationalist doctrine that human beings have substantive *a priori* knowledge in virtue of possessing a faculty of pure reason.
8. EITHER 'The conclusion is contained in the premisses.' What light, if any, does this throw on the epistemology of deductive reasoning?
OR 'The truths of logic and mathematics are analytic propositions or tautologies' (Ayer). Discuss.
9. EITHER How if at all is introspective self-knowledge possible?
OR Is introspection a species of self-perception?
10. Assess Quine's account of the epistemology of science.
11. Did you know yesterday that the sun would rise today?
12. How, if at all, can induction be justified?
13. EITHER Expound Goodman's 'new riddle' of induction. What is the answer to the riddle?
OR You notice a red tomato. Should this increase your confidence that all ravens are black?

END OF PAPER