

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0135

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy of Psychology

Thursday 29 May 2008: 2.30 – 5.30pm

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

1. Is the behaviourist right to say that appeal to mental processes should play no part in a scientific psychology?
2. 'The human mind is a classical computer.' Discuss.
3. 'Connectionism cannot explain the systematicity of cognition.' Discuss.
4. **Either** (a) Do we have innate knowledge of linguistic structure? .
Or (b) 'A great many of our concepts are innate.' Discuss.
5. What is the massive modularity hypothesis? Is it true?
6. 'The Rat Man's delusory conviction that his father would be subjected to the rat torture made him anxious, depressed, and obsessional. It cannot be right to regard such a symptom as fulfilling his wishes.' Discuss.
7. **Either** (a) Should psychoanalytic claims be rejected as methodologically defective?
Or (b) Do connections between psychoanalysis and commonsense psychology offer significant support for psychoanalytic claims?
8. **Either** (a) Does Freud explain the production of a symptom or dream as a kind of action which is rational?
Or (b) Does Freud explain our tendency to believe what suits us, as opposed to what is supported by evidence?
9. Does the ability to pass 'false' belief tests show that one must have an innate theory of mind module?
10. 'If subjects with Asperger's Syndrome are linguistically competent but have difficulties understanding others, linguistic communication cannot depend on our capacities for mentalizing.' Discuss
11. **Either** (a) What can children's capacity for pretend play tell us about cognitive development in autistic and normal individuals?
Or (b) Is autism best characterised as a behavioural, genetic, neurological, or cognitive impairment? What considerations might tell in favour of one or another classification, and how does this affect attempts to explain autism?

12. What is 'adaptive thinking'? Does it work?
13. In what ways, if any, can evolutionary theory help us to understand human cognition and human behaviour?
14. Does research in evolutionary psychology show that human beings are fundamentally rational?
15. Can anything be learned about visual awareness or visual cognition by studying pathological cases?
16. Assess the grounds for claiming that there are two visual systems in the human brain, and explain the significance of this hypothesis for philosophical views of the nature of vision.

END OF PAPER