

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY OLD REGULATIONS
for Internal Students

FREGE, RUSSELL, WITTGENSTEIN

September 2000

Answer THREE questions.

1. 'Since most objects present themselves differently to different people (and to the same person at different times), sense cannot both be mode of presentation and also what is involved in understanding.' Discuss.
2. What led Frege to distinguish between direct and indirect meaning (Bedeutung)? Is the distinction justified?
3. 'One would expect that what is meant by the grammatical subject would be the concept; but the concept as such cannot play this part, in view of its predicative nature; it must first be converted into an object, or, more precisely, an object must go proxy for it' (Frege, 'On Concept and Object'). Explain and evaluate.
4. Did Frege succeed in establishing that the meaning (Bedeutung) of a sentence is its truth value?
5. State Russell's Theory of Descriptions and evaluate the arguments he gives for it.
6. 'We must either accept the inductive principle on the ground of its intrinsic evidence, or forego all justification for our expectations about the future.' Explain and evaluate.
7. Describe Russell's 'construction' of the external world. Does it solve any epistemological problems?
8. State and assess Russell's view about negative facts.
9. What were Wittgenstein's reasons for holding that sentences could be analysed into combinations of simple signs and/or that facts could be analysed into combinations of simple objects?
10. What, if anything, did the early Wittgenstein think was correct in solipsism?

SEE NEXT PAGE

page 1

11. Wittgenstein says that Augustine describes the learning of language ‘as if the child could already think, only not yet speak.’ Why does Wittgenstein take this to be wrong?

12. Assess Wittgenstein’s claim that the diarist in §258 ‘has no criterion of correctness’ so that ‘here we can’t talk about “right”’.

13. Expound and assess the argument which Wittgenstein gives using the example of the beetle in the box.

END OF PAPER

