

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY NEW REGULATIONS  
for Internal Students

May 2000

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

Answer THREE questions. Questions should be chosen from at least two sections. You may not take questions from an area which is the subject of either of your other two papers.

Please write the titles of your other two papers at the top of your answer paper.

#### SECTION A: EPISTEMOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY

1. Do you know that you are not now dreaming? If so, how? If not, does it follow that you don't know anything at all?
2. 'It is a short step from the recognition that a justified belief can be false to the conclusion that a justified true belief may not be knowledge.' Discuss.
3. Does knowledge require foundations?
4. Do I have any reason at all for believing that the sun will rise tomorrow?
5. 'I have just as much reason to believe that all emeralds are grue as I have to believe that all emeralds are green.' Discuss.

#### SECTION B: ETHICS

6. Are there good reasons to believe that values exist objectively?

SEE NEXT PAGE

page 1

7. Does utilitarianism pay insufficient regard to the importance of our individual projects?

8. 'If a foetus is a person, then abortion is murder.' Discuss.
9. If I could not have done anything other than P, does it follow that I am not morally responsible for doing P?
10. In what circumstances, if any, can moral rights be over-ridden?

### SECTION C: LOGIC AND METAPHYSICS

11. Can we adequately explain why the sentence 'Cicero is Tully' conveys information, whereas the sentence 'Cicero is Cicero' is a trivial tautology?
12. Are proper names 'rigid designators'?
13. Are there any analytic truths?
14. What makes me the same person today as I was ten years ago?
15. 'A cause is an event sufficient to bring about another event.' Discuss.

### SECTION D: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

16. Would Rawls's two principles of justice be chosen from his Original Position?
17. Is Rawls's difference principle fair?
18. Does Nozick establish that patterned conceptions of justice involve an unacceptable violation of liberty?
19. Do we tacitly consent to our governments?
20. Is it true that we should be permitted to act as we wish, provided we do no harm to others?

SEE NEXT PAGE

page 2

### SECTION E: SYMBOLIC LOGIC

Answer all questions:

21. I. a) Translate the following sentences of English as fully as possible into a predicate calculus with

identity (Predicate), providing an interpretation or key in each case.

- i. Some writing desks are made of rose wood.
- ii. At least two sailors jumped ship.
- iii. Everyone other than Jim was early.

b) Using whichever proof method you prefer show that the following sequents of a predicate calculus are valid.

- i.  $\forall x(Fx \supset Gx), \forall x(Gx \supset Hx) \supset \forall x(Fx \supset Hx)$
- ii.  $\forall x(Fx \supset Gx), Fa \supset \forall xGx$

II. Consider each of the following arguments. Are they valid or invalid? Can they be symbolized so as to yield a correct sequent of first order predicate logic with identity (Predicate)? Symbolize any which can be symbolized.

- i. Tom sees Pluto. Therefore Pluto is visible.
- ii. My tie is loud; your tie is loud. Therefore there is something that both of these ties are.
- iii. Ian buttered some toast in the kitchen. So Ian buttered some toast.
- iv. Ted is the tallest philosopher. Bill is a philosopher. So either Ted is Bill or Ted is taller than Bill.
- v. All base metals are rare. Iron is a base metal. Therefore Iron is rare.

III. a). Write a paragraph on each of the following:

- i. The problem with treating '?' ('?') as a translation of the English 'if...then';
- ii. What it is for a calculus to be sound and to be complete;
- iii. The relation between the validity of an argument and the cogency of an argument.

b). How does exact similarity differ from identity? Why should we introduce a special symbol for identity in a predicate calculus?

END OF PAPER

page 3