

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

577 0080

MA Examination
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy of Science

Thursday 21 May : 10.00 – 1.00 pm

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

1. What is Popper's response to the problem of induction? Does it succeed?
2. What is the distinction between the 'context of discovery' and the 'context of justification'? Can it be maintained?
3. What, if anything, is objective probability?
4. Is confirmation best understood as a matter of increased degree of belief?
5. Is it ever rational to retain a scientific hypothesis in the face of contrary evidence?
6. 'Explanation and prediction share the same logical structure.' Discuss.
7. Does a statistical explanation have to imply a high probability for the explanandum?
8. What is a law of nature?
9. Can a scientific realist accept that most scientific theories are false?
10. Should our attitude to claims about unobservables be different from our attitudes to claims about observables?
11. Do new theories characteristically contradict those they replace?
12. Is structural realism 'the best of both worlds'?
13. 'The world is a dappled plurality of different kinds of facts, only a few of which are physical.' Discuss.
14. 'Scientific theories are never value-free.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER