

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Friday 17th September 1999
10.00 – 13.00

Answer THREE questions

1. Is our competence in commonsense psychology owed to our knowledge of a theory, to our capacity to simulate, or to both or neither?
2. EITHER (a) In what ways, if any, can evolutionary considerations help us to understand the structure of the human mind?

OR (b) In what ways, if any, can evolutionary considerations help us to understand the representational character of psychological states?
3. EITHER (a) Expound and assess the classical computational view of the mind.

OR (b) Can connectionism explain the systematicity of cognition?

OR (c) “Any computational account of the mind requires an account of psychosemantics; but in the case of connectionism this seems particularly difficult to provide.” Discuss.
4. EITHER (a) Is there good reason to suppose that infants are born with innate knowledge of language?

OR (b) Is the linguistic competence of adult speakers best explained by their tacit or unconscious knowledge of a formal theory of their language?
5. EITHER (a) Assess the claim that psychoanalysis can be regarded as a cogent extension of commonsense psychology.

OR (b) Assess one or more of the claims that psychoanalysis is unfalsifiable, pseudo-scientific, and incapable of inductive support.
6. Compare and contrast the way Freud explains a dream with the way Davidson explains an action.
7. EITHER (a) Discuss the role of the concept of identity in Klein's account of the transition from the

paranoid-schizoid to the depressive position.

OR (b) How are the phenomena of splitting and projective identification related to one another?

8. Discuss what we learn about visual consciousness from one or more of the following: blindsight, apperceptive visual agnosia, optic ataxia.

9. EITHER (a) What light does psychoanalysis cast on emotion?

OR (b) How did Darwin seek to explain the phenomena of emotion?

OR (c) How far can emotion be understood in terms of the notion of an affect program?

END OF PAPER