

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA PHILOSOPHY OLD REGULATIONS
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Answer THREE questions.

1. EITHER (a) Are the motives which serve to explain actions linked to them by laws? If so, what are the laws and how are they used in explanation? If not, how can such motives provide explanations?

OR (b) What reason have we to regard commonsense explanations of action as true?

2. 'Just as a commonsense explanation rationalizes an action, so a psychoanalytic explanation rationalizes a dream.' Discuss.

3. Discuss one or more of the following

(a) Psychoanalysis is unfalsifiable and/or incapable of inductive support.

(b) Psychoanalysis is a potentially sound extension of commonsense psychology.

4. EITHER (a) Which areas of cognition can be explained in terms of mental modules, and which cannot?

OR (b) Do evolutionary considerations lead to the view that the mind is 'massively modular'?

5. EITHER (a) How does the connectionist approach to modeling cognition differ from that of classical computationalism? Do the differences argue in favour of the connectionist approach, the classical approach, or neither?

OR (b) If connectionist networks turned out to provide the most accurate models of our cognitive processes, would that show we have no beliefs?

6. EITHER (a) Does Chomsky provide sound reasons for his claim that we

have some innate knowledge of grammar?

OR (b) Can speakers have tacit knowledge of grammar only if linguistic rules are explicitly represented in their minds?

PLEASE TURN OVER

7. 'We explain and predict others' behaviour by using ourselves as a model, not by employing a tacit psychological theory.' Discuss.

8. EITHER (a) Do computational accounts of cognition provide any causal or explanatory role for intentional content?

OR (b) Can intentionality be explained in naturalistic terms?

9. State and assess the best reasons for thinking that cognitive capacities are computational capacities.

10. Answer one of the following:

(a) Does neuroscientific work provide support for Freud's account of dreams?

(b) Does neuroscience suggest that there are basic emotions?

(c) What light, if any, does neuroscience cast on consciousness and/or the self?

11. 'To say that something is innate is only to say that it is not learned; so the concept of innateness is empty.' Discuss.

12. Is there a plausible biological explanation of human altruism?

END OF PAPER