

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**M.Phil. EXAMINATION**  
for Internal Students

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Philosophy of Psychology**

Tuesday, 9 May 2006: 10.00 – 13.00

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following **THIRTEEN** questions, avoiding overlap in their answers, also between papers.

1. 'Freud explained a dream as we explain an action: by citing the desires and beliefs of the dreamer'. Discuss.
2. Critically assess ONE of the following as providing evidence for psychoanalytic theory:
  - (a) Case studies.
  - (b) The neuroscience of dreaming.
  - (c) Attachment research.
3. 'Concepts from evolutionary biology have no explanatory role in empirical psychology.' Discuss this claim with reference to ONE of the following:
  - (a) Kin selection.
  - (b) Sexual selection.
  - (c) Parental investment.
4. Does Chomsky's attack on Skinner show that there is no plausible account to be given of language in terms of patterns of verbal behaviour?
5. 'Classical models are ultimately no better than connectionist ones at explaining the systematicity of cognition.' Discuss.
6. What, if anything, does it mean to say that a psychological trait is innate?
7. How far does the compositionality of thought constrain accounts of the nature of concepts?
8. What is a mental module? How modular is the mind?
9. 'If the physiological realization of fear is common to all mammals, fear should be regarded as a natural kind.' Discuss.
10. Does any branch of psychology deal exclusively in narrow contents?
11. What, if anything, do Poverty of Stimulus arguments show?
12. Is there any one thing that vision is for?
13. In what sense, if any, is autism a cognitive deficit?

**END OF PAPER**