

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

M.Phil. EXAMINATION

for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Quine

Wednesday, 10 May 2006: 10.00 – 13.00

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

1. EITHER (a) What is Quine's attitude to Davidson's anomalous monism? What should it be?
OR (b) Is Quine better characterized as a reductionist or as an eliminativist about the mind?
2. What is Quine's thesis of the indeterminacy of translation? Expound and assess his arguments for the thesis.
3. 'Viewed from within the phenomenistic conceptual scheme, the ontologies of physical objects and mathematical objects are myths. The quality of myth, however, is relative' (Quine). Discuss.
4. Expound and assess Quine's approach to empirically equivalent systems.
5. Expound and assess Quine's approach to different grades of modal involvement.
6. What role do impacts on our sensory surfaces play in Quine's epistemology?
7. 'Quine's arguments against an analytic/synthetic distinction depend on verificationism and should therefore be rejected.' Discuss.
8. Expound and assess Quine's attitude(s) towards 'deviant' logics.
9. What, in Quine's view, is naturalized epistemology? Expound and assess his arguments in favour of pursuing it.
10. 'Quine is right that grammatical analysis is purpose-relative. But given Chomsky's stated purposes, there are no general grounds for scepticism about Chomsky's project.' Discuss.
11. Critically assess Quine's criterion of ontological commitment.
12. Assess Quine's influence on Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*.
13. What is Quine's argument for non-cognitivism in ethics? Is it consistent with his view of truth?

END OF PAPER