

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2004
for internal students

QUINE

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions. Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Explain and evaluate Quine's critique of conventionalism about logic.
2. Explain the difference between the indeterminacy of translation and inscrutability of reference and the way they are related in Quine's argument of chapter 2 of *Word and Object*.
3. Quine registers distinct verdicts about the intelligibility of *de re* belief and *de re* modality. What explains this difference?
4. Quine believes that, in principle, every belief is revisable, even logical beliefs, and yet he is among the staunchest defenders of classical logic. Explain why Quine is coherent in maintaining both these commitments.
5. What is established by Quine's critique of the analytic-synthetic distinction?
6. What is the difference between traditional and naturalised epistemology? Explain and evaluate Quine's support of the latter.
7. Explain and evaluate the proxy function argument for ontological relativity.
8. Appraise Quine's claim that it is the objects in the range of the first-order quantifiers and not the objects denoted by names that determine the ontological commitments of a theory.
9. Why, despite an early flirtation with nominalism, does Quine come to believe that sets exist? How convincing were the reasons that persuaded him?
10. Evaluate Quine's account of the persistence of a material object through time.
11. What is the use-mention distinction? Explain and evaluate two examples of Quine using this distinction to criticise a philosophical position.
12. What is the myth of the museum? Explain and evaluate its role in Quine's critique of mentalism.

END OF PAPER