

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS 2001
for internal students

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Wednesday 16th May 2001: 10:00 – 1:00

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

1. What is a law of nature?
2. 'Science supports the tenseless theory of time.' Discuss.
3. What is the best view of scientific explanation? Why is it the best view?
4. 'Hume's problem of induction is not important.' Discuss.
5. How does theory confirmation work in science?
6. 'Objective interpretations of probability are useful; so are subjective interpretations. Neither is wrong.' Discuss.
7. 'Observation is fixed by belief.' Discuss.
8. What is the pessimistic meta-induction? Does it work?
9. What is instrumentalism? Is it tenable?
10. EITHER (a) 'It all boils down to physics.' Discuss.
OR (b) What is the Unity of Science? Is it true?

PLEASE TURN OVER

11. Is spacetime constructed from something? If so, what?
12. 'There is no way to make sense of quantum mechanics.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER

