

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
MPHIL EXAMINATIONS
for internal students

Philosophy of Psychology

10:00-13:00, Wednesday 15th May, 2002

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions.

Please avoid overlap in your answers

1. EITHER a) Is human reasoning subserved by modular mechanisms?

OR b) 'The claim that the mind is modular is no more than a weak but true thesis.' Discuss.
2. Should folk psychological assumptions constrain investigations in psychology and neuroscience?
3. EITHER a) 'Though psychologists almost invariably assume that lexical concepts are structured, there is no reason to think that this assumption is correct.' Discuss.

OR b) 'If lexical concepts are primitive, then they will also be innate.' Discuss.

4. 'The Simulation Theory and the Theory Theory are not genuinely distinct approaches to understanding our abilities to predict, describe and explain the behaviour of other people.' Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

5. How, if at all, does neuroscientific evidence shed light on phenomenal consciousness?

6. EITHER a) 'Philosophical disputes concerning whether mental content is narrow or broad have no significant ramifications for cognitive science.' Discuss.

OR b) 'Psychology does employ intentional notions, but it has no place for the idea of the unique content of an intentional state.' Discuss.

7. 'The claim that we possess a language of thought is compelling; but the thesis that most mental processes are computational is probably false.' Discuss.

8. 'Arguments about the systematicity and productivity of thought tell us nothing whatsoever about cognitive architecture.' Discuss.

9. EITHER a) What is nativism? To what extent is it true of humans?

OR b) 'The most that poverty of stimulus arguments show is that a language user must possess domain-specific knowledge of linguistic structure in order to come to speak a natural language.' Is this true?

10. 'Since any grounds for ascribing tacit knowledge of a grammar are simply grounds for positing a mechanism that produces and parses grammatical sentences, we have no need to appeal to the notion of knowledge in linguistics.' Discuss.

PLEASE TURN OVER

11. EITHER a) 'There are no significant differences between commonsense psychological explanations and psychoanalytic explanations.' Discuss.

OR b) 'Wittgenstein's criticism of Freud was that where an answer to a conceptual question was needed, Freud provided only a causal story.' Is this criticism correct?

12. 'Mental illnesses are nothing but substantial deviations from accepted social norms.' Is this true? If not, what are they?

13. 'Dividing the mind provides no explanation of akrasia or self deception.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER