

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

M.Phil. EXAMINATION
for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Wittgenstein

Tuesday, 8 May 2007: 10.00 -13.00

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

1. Why does Wittgenstein claim that if the world had no substance, we would be unable to represent it truly or falsely (*Tractatus* 2.0211-2.0212)? What does he mean by 'substance'? Is the claim correct?
2. 'Wittgenstein locates a fundamental difficulty for Russell's 1913 account of judgement. But the same fundamental difficulty afflicts Wittgenstein's account of judgement in the *Tractatus*.' Discuss.
3. Critically assess the claim that Wittgenstein's aim in the *Tractatus* was not to present an account of representation, but rather to demonstrate the impossibility of providing such an account.
4. What difficulty for the *Tractatus* does 'Some Remarks on Logical Form' aim to solve? Is it successful?
5. Discuss the development of Wittgenstein's view of the general form of propositions between the *Tractatus* and *Philosophical Investigations*.
6. What is the function, or what are the functions, of language-games in Wittgenstein's later philosophy? How well do they serve their function(s)?
7. What view, or views, of meaning does Wittgenstein aim to undermine in his reflections on rule following? Is he successful?
8. 'If one tried to advance *theses* in philosophy, it would never be possible to debate them, because everyone would agree to them' (*Philosophical Investigations* Section 128). Discuss.
9. What role does the rejection of private experience play in Wittgenstein's later philosophy?
10. 'Wittgenstein's response to scepticism in *On Certainty* is *not* that the sceptic and his opponent fail to present us with rationally assessable claims. It is that they fail to present us with claims at all.' Discuss.
11. To what extent does Wittgenstein's later philosophy (including *On Certainty*) contain a unified response to philosophical idealism?

END OF PAPER