

M.A. EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

PHILOSOPHY

Logic and Metaphysics

Wednesday, 28 May: 10.00 - 1.00.

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Explain and evaluate the claim that the fundamental constituents of reality are neither particulars nor universals but property instances or tropes.
2. 'Universals are supposed to be entities which are wholly present wherever a particular instantiates them. Therefore a universal can be in more than one place at the same time. But nothing can be in more than one place at one time. Therefore there cannot be any universals.' Discuss.
3. Is qualitative identity really identity?
4. Are there entities which make sentences true?
5. What distinctions, if any, should we make among the following sentences?
Dogs bark.
'Dogs bark' is true.
It is true that dogs bark.
6. Is truth a value?
7. 'The relation between a definite description and its denotation differs sharply from the relation between a proper name and its reference.' Explain what is meant by this claim. Is it true?
8. What problems are raised (or are thought to be raised) by the fact that two proper names may refer to a single object? How should they be solved?
9. Can Russell's theory of definite descriptions accommodate the fact that someone can successfully use a definite description to refer both in cases where nothing fits the description and in cases where many objects fit the description?

10. Does our everyday conception of the world oblige us to say that it is sometimes the case that two physical objects occupy exactly the same region of space at one and the same time?

TURN OVER

11. 'Objects which survive through change exist at different times by having temporal parts.' Are there any good reasons to hold this view?
12. Is there a non-trivial criterion of identity for events? How does the answer to this question affect the claim that there are events?
13. 'The problem of late pre-emption is fatal to any counterfactual analysis of causation.' Discuss.
14. What makes the causal relation asymmetric?

END OF PAPER