UNIVERSITY OF LONDON M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003 for internal students

LEWIS

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

- 1. How, and how well, does Lewis argue that possible worlds are universes?
- 2. Why does Lewis think that the person you would have been, had things been different, isn't strictly speaking you? Is he right?
- 3. Evaluate Lewis' argument for a four-dimensionalist account of material objects.
- 4. Assess Lewis' solution to Newcombe's paradox.
- 5. Does Lewis successfully reconcile his version of the identity theory with the possibility of Martian pain?
- 6. 'In his later writings on causation, Lewis abandoned the counterfactual analysis.' Discuss.
- 7. 'Lewis' treatment of "might" counterfactuals, and of the law of conditional excluded middle, is indefensible, because it conflates metaphysical modalities with epistemic modalities.' Discuss.
- 8. Expound and assess Lewis' theory of vagueness as semantic indecision.
- 9. Are the conventions of truthfulness and trust sufficient to found the actual language relation?
- 10. 'The Principal Principle is intuitive but false; and its reformulation, though perhaps true, is unintuitive.' Discuss.
- 11. 'Mathematics is megethology.' What does this mean? Is it true?
- 12. Is knowledge as 'elusive' as Lewis claims it is?
- 13. Does Lewis show that we can do without universals in metaphysics?
- 14. 'There is nothing more significant in a second-order desire than in a first-order desire in explaining value.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER