

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003
for internal students

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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

1. What are the arguments for, and the implications of, the claim that observation is theory laden?
2. Explain and discuss the pessimistic meta-induction concerning the truth of scientific theories.
3. 'Scientific explanation is the deduction of an event's occurrence from laws and initial conditions.' What is right, and what is wrong, with this view?
4. Is there a 'fundamental' science? What are the prospects of 'reducing' some or all of the special sciences to some one fundamental science?
5. Expound and discuss the implications of Craig's Theorem for scientific realism.
6. 'There is no plausible model of quantum mechanics.' Discuss.
7. 'Altruism cannot be explained by natural selection.' Discuss.
8. Does Bayesianism provide an adequate account of confirmation?
9. Does epistemic holism preclude the possibility of a viable notion of empirical significance?
10. How, if at all, should we distinguish between subjective and objective chance?
11. EITHER (a) 'The concept of a law of nature is a concept of pure metaphysics, with no admixture of either epistemology or psychology.' Discuss.
OR (b) 'There are no laws of nature.' Discuss.
12. EITHER (a) What is a teleological explanation?
OR (b) What is a species? Are there any?

TURN OVER

13. With reference to either the Special Theory, or the General Theory, or both, assess the claim that Relativity entails that space-time is a real physical entity.

END OF PAPER