

BA EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (t): Philosophy of Psychology

Thursday, May 8th, 2003, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. Do Freud's explanations of dreams or symptoms show that these phenomena are genuinely rational?
2. EITHER (a) Assess the claim that psychoanalysis is a cogent extension of commonsense psychology.
OR (b) Are psychoanalytic claims unfalsifiable, inductively inconfirmable, or otherwise methodologically flawed?
3. Does recent neuroscientific research support Freud's account of dreaming?
4. 'A number of putatively explanatory psychoanalytic concepts in fact play no explanatory role.' Discuss in relation to one of the following:
 - (a) infantile sexuality
 - (b) the super-ego
 - (c) projection
 - (d) projective identification
 - (e) the paranoid/schizoid and depressive positions
5. 'Our concept of a fish is a mental representation of a prototypical fish.' Discuss.
6. EITHER (a) Has the computational theory of mind enhanced our understanding of what emotions are?
OR (b) Has neuroscience enhanced our understanding of what emotions are?
7. Critically assess what you take to be the most viable approach to psychosemantics.
8. 'Classical computationalism is the only extant approach to cognition that can provide an adequate explanation of systematicity.' Explain and assess this claim.
9. 'There are no good reasons to hold that humans have innate linguistic knowledge of grammar.' Discuss.
10. Discuss the claim that our understanding of others is to be explained by our ability to simulate their states of mind, as opposed to our possession of a tacit theory of these states.

11. Explain and assess ONE of the following claims:
 - (a) There is a module for visual cognition.
 - (b) The basic mammalian emotions are modular.
12. 'The human mind — including those parts responsible for reasoning and decision making — is largely or perhaps even entirely composed of highly specialized modular mechanisms.' Discuss.
13. Does the dissociation of visuo-motor control from visual recognition of shape have consequences for our philosophical understanding of visual experience?
14. 'Evolutionary considerations are highly unlikely to make any useful contribution to our psychological theorizing.' Is this true?
15. 'If, as many evolutionary psychologists maintain, genes are the only units of selection, then all naturally selected psychological traits must be genetically determined.' Discuss.
16. Does the concept of innateness have any substantive role to play in psychology?
17. Is Chomsky right to claim that the study of language yields insights into the organization of the mind/brain?

END OF PAPER