

BA EXAMINATION 2003

for Internal Students

This paper is also taken by Combined Studies Students

PHILOSOPHY

Optional subject (f): Philosophy of Science

Wednesday, May 21st, 2003, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Answer THREE questions. Avoid overlap in your answers.

1. 'All scientific theories of the past have turned out to be wrong. That indicates current theories are wrong too.' Discuss.
2. How does natural selection work?
3. Can society and/or human psychology be explained by natural selection?
4. What is it for a scientific theory to explain something?
5. Discuss the observation/theory distinction.
6. Discuss the measurement problem in quantum mechanics.
7. 'Probabilities in a deterministic theory are zero or one.' Discuss.
8. Discuss scientific realism.
9. Can a red shoe confirm that all swans are black?
10. 'Rational degrees of belief must satisfy the probability calculus.' Discuss.
11. 'Science is a human enterprise, so science and its results are a social construction.' Discuss.
12. EITHER (a) Is social science just a branch of the natural sciences?
OR (b) Are explanations the same in the natural sciences as in the social sciences?

END OF PAPER