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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

EXAMINATION FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE OF BA

JUNE 1993

9014 PHILOSOPHY IA: INTRODUCTION TO METAPHYSICS

PAPER ONE

TIME: TWO HOURS

[In addition, candidates are allowed TEN minutes before the examination begins, to read the paper]

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS,
ONE FROM SECTION ONE AND ONE FROM SECTION TWO.

ANSWER EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE PAGE

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE

SECTION ONE: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

- 1 Discuss one argument in the course for or against the existence of God.
- 2 Why is the question about the existence of God a deep question?
- 3 How, if at all, does the existence of a supernatural being give point to human life which it would otherwise lack?

SECTION TWO: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

- 4 What in general terms distinguishes a Relativist conception of science from a Rationalist conception? Is Relativism a plausible account of science? Defend your answer. (From the topic "Relativism: The Loss of Objectivity".)
- 5 Thomas Kuhn develops a Relativist account of science that is grounded in the behaviour of the scientific community. Offer an exposition of Kuhn's account of science and say whether you think it is plausible. (From the topic "Relativism: The Loss of Objectivity".)
- 6 According to Paul Feyerabend, when it comes to the methods that scientists ought to employ when seeking to justify their theories "there is only one principle that can be defended It is the principle: anything goes" (Against Method, p.28). Offer an exposition of this position. Why does Thomas Kuhn think, contrary to Feyerabend, that methodological anarchism must be suppressed at certain points in scientific activity? Who do you think is right about this? (From the topic "Relativism: The Loss of Objectivity".)

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7 What is the role of observation in science? Does observation secure an objective foundation for scientific activity? (From the topic: "Observation Reconsidered: Objectivity Regained".)

8 Does "The Argument from the Theory-Dependence of Observation" undermine the objectifying role that observation can play in science? Defend your answer. (From the topic: "Observation Reconsidered: Objectivity Regained".)

9 Offer an exposition of the Inductivist conception of science. Is this a plausible account of scientific activity? Defend your answer. (From the topic: "Inductivism: Science as Confirmation".)

10 What is "the problem of induction"? Does this problem undermine the Inductivist account of science? (From the topic "Inductivism: Science and Confirmation".)

11 According to Karl Popper, there is a logical asymmetry between the confirmation of scientific hypotheses and their falsification. Explain how the Falsificationist account of science is based on this logical asymmetry. Is the falsification of a scientific hypothesis as straightforward as Popper thinks? Defend your answer. (From the topic: "Falsificationism: Science as Conjecture and Refutation".)

12 According to Falsificationism, science is a process of conjectures and refutations. Offer a general exposition of this account of science and say whether you think it is plausible. (From the topic: "Falsificationism: Science and Conjecture and Refutation".)