

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
EXAMINATION FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE OF BA
JUNE 1995
9014 PHILOSOPHY IA: INTRODUCTION TO METAPHYSICS
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

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SECTION ONE: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

- 1 Critically examine either the cosmological or teleological argument for the existence of God.
- 2 "If God does not exist, then everything is permitted". Discuss critically.

SECTION TWO: PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

- 3 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".)
- 4 While Thomas Kuhn and Paul Feyerabend both develop relativist accounts of science, their respective positions differ quite markedly. Offer an exposition of the difference between their respective versions of relativism. Which position, do you think, is more plausible? (From the topic "Relativism: The Loss of Objectivity".)
- 5 What is the relationship between scientific activity and technological development? Is it possible to reconcile a relativist account of science with our increasing technological capacity to manipulate the world? Defend your answer. (From the topic "Relativism: The Loss of Objectivity".)
- 6 What role does observation play in science? What does it mean to say that observation "places objectifying constraints" on scientific activity? Can observation thereby secure an objective foundation for science? (From the topic "Observation Reconsidered: Objectivity Regained".)

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7 One of the main routes to a relativist conception of science is "the argument from the theory-dependence of observation". How does this argument go? Is this a good argument? Defend your answer. (From the topic "Observation Reconsidered: Objectivity Regained".)

8 Offer a general account of the inductivist conception of science. Is this a plausible account of scientific activity? (From the topic "Inductivism: Science as Confirmation".)

9 What role does inductive reasoning play in the inductivist account of science? Does "the problem of induction" undermine this role? Defend your answer. (From the topic "Inductivism: Science as Confirmation".)

10 Offer a general exposition of the falsificationist account of science. Is this a plausible conception of scientific activity? (From the topic "Falsificationism: Science as Conjecture and Refutation".)

11 According to Karl Popper, while we can never know that a scientific theory is objectively true, we can know that one theory is more approximately true than another, and hence that science is making progress towards an objective standard of truth. Explain Popper's account of scientific progress. Is this account plausible? (From the topic "Falsificationism: Science as Conjecture and Refutation".)