

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

TAKE HOME EXAMINATION FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE OF BA

NOVEMBER 2000

4549 REALITY, TRUTH AND MEANING

ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS,

BEGIN ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE PAGE

*Completed examination must be back to Departmental Secretary by
4.00pm on 30 October 2000*

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make sure you have an examination booklet and fill out the outside page.
2. Carefully read through the examination questions and (following instruction) choose the **FOUR** questions you will answer.
3. Prepare to answer the questions by reading through the relevant material (Readings, lecture notes, your own notes), thinking about the question and making notes regarding your strategy in answering.
4. When you are ready, sit down and write your answers, in one go, into your examination booklet. Give yourself 40 to 45 minutes for each question.
5. Approach the task as an examination, not an essay. There is **NO NEED** for extensive research, footnoting, referencing, bibliographical detail etc. **THE AIM IS TO SHOW YOU CAN GRASP AND THINK CLEARLY ABOUT CENTRAL ISSUES.**
6. Leave your answers once completed. There is no need to type or perfect the presentation.
- 7 Remember that **‘the theory of descriptions’** and the **‘descriptions of theory of names’** are not the same things.

CAUTION.

1. Try **NOT** to merely regurgitate lecture notes: this will win you few marks.
2. Write **YOUR OWN** answers into **YOUR OWN** booklet(s). If any question of authenticity arises you may be asked to verbally defend and explain your answers.

SUBMISSION.

Examination booklets, completed or with as much as you have attempted, must be returned to the Philosophy Department office by **4PM on 30 OCTOBER** unless **PRIOR** arrangements have been agreed upon.

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ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS

- 1 Why do many philosophers believe that the referential theory of meaning cannot provide a comprehensive theory of meaning?
- 2 What was Russell's theory of descriptions, and why did he develop it?
- 3 What was 'Donnellan's distinction'? What was its significance in philosophy of language?
- 4 Explain the classical and cluster description theory of names. What are the problems which led to the description theory being displaced by causal theory? (use your own examples.)
- 5 Describe in detail Devitt and Sterelny's non-Millian, causal-historical-referential theory of meaning. What do you see as its main strengths and weaknesses?
- 6 In what way does Gareth Evans take description theory insights, and causal theory insights, to make some new proposals?
- 7 Discuss the aspects of linguistic relativism that can arise from
 - (a) Wittgenstein's view, and/or,
 - (b) Wharfian view, and/or
 - (c) Saussure's structuralism.

END OF EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

4549/2915 REALITY TRUTH AND MEANING II/III

TAKE HOME EXAMINATION INFORMATION

- 1 Examination papers and booklets will be distributed to Level II students at the last lecture, Thursday 26 October.
- 2 Students will complete the examination as a normal exam but in open book fashion, and return exam booklets to the Philosophy Department office by 4.00pm on Monday 30th October.
- 3 Further details of the examination to be explained at last lecture.

ABSOLUTE FINAL DEADLINE

For those who may be considering extensions, **NO WRITTEN WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR MARKING AFTER MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER** due to University administration requirements.

Denise Gamble
18 October 2000
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