

NST3HP  
Natural Sciences Tripos Part III: History and Philosophy of Science

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Questions released at 12 noon on Wednesday 9 March 2022  
Answers to be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday 16 March 2022

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**Before you begin read these instructions carefully:**

*Students should answer **two** questions from the following list of 13 questions.*

*The two essays should be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday 16 March 2022 by being uploaded to the HPS Part III Coursework site on Moodle.*

*The question number, title and word count should be stated on the first page of each essay.*

## **NST Part III History and Philosophy of Science**

Set essays

*Answer any **two** questions. Answers should not exceed 2,500 words each.*

1. “The idea of extinction is a product of colonialism.” What historical evidence can you offer to support or refute this claim?
2. What does it mean for an organism to be identified as “intelligent”?
3. “There is a fundamental difference between whether a claim *is* established and whether we *ought* to say it.” Does this mean we don’t need to worry about inductive risk?
4. Did imperial interests help or hinder the use of nineteenth-century astronomical instruments?
5. What, if anything, can history tell us about the concept of race?
6. Is modern science monist? In which ways, and to what extent?
7. “The present pandemic shows all too clearly that diseases do not map on to neat narratives.” Discuss.
8. Choose a particular feature of our sexuality. Is this feature best understood with an evolutionary account, or an alternative account?
9. “Randomised Controlled Trials are the gold standard of evidence for causal claims.” Discuss.
10. By analogy to the geographic sensitivity that Mahony and Hulme recommend, how might a sensitivity to *temporality* enrich our understanding of climate knowledge politics?
11. “As an accomplice to contemporary imperialism, public health manages (as a profession) and maintains (as an academic discipline) global health inequity.” Does the history of international and global health support this statement?
12. “A scientific instrument is an instrument used by scientists.” Discuss.
13. “The direction of time is a basic feature of our experience of the world, so it is unreasonable to reject its existence.” Discuss.

**END OF PAPER**