

NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Part III

Questions released at 12 noon on Monday 14 February 2011
Answers to be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 21 February 2011

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Before you begin read these instructions carefully:

*Students taking Natural Science Tripos Part III **History and Philosophy of Science** should answer **two** questions from the following list of eight questions.*

*The two essays should be submitted in duplicate to the Departmental Office by 12 noon on Monday 21st February 2011. Students are also required to upload their examinable work as a .doc or .rtf file to the **closed and confidential** HPS MPhil / Part III site on CamTools. The examiners may use this to check word count or derivative passages.*

*Essays should be marked 1, 2, 3, etc. according to the number of the question attempted. On the top of the first page of each essay include your name and college. The essays should be typed on only **one** side of the paper and each essay should be firmly stapled.*

When handing in your essays attach a completed coversheet (downloadable from Camtools) to the bundle listing the number of each question attempted. It is essential that you write your name and essay number on the coversheet as well as on each essay.

NST Part III History and Philosophy of Science

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

1. Do the evolutionary origins of our moral beliefs imply that morality is an illusion, foisted on us by our genes?
2. “Anthropology is a science and has the tools to understand science as a form of culture.” Discuss.
3. How have casebooks been used to write the history of early modern medicine?
4. How and to what extent did the roles of patients in pharmaceutical trials change during the twentieth century?
5. What did Popper and Kuhn mean by ‘progress’ in science? Can it be achieved through the kind of discontinuous change that both Popper and Kuhn saw in scientific change?
6. **Either** (a) Is there a Duhem-Quine thesis?
Or (b) What, if anything, does 'loveliness' have to do with truth?
7. In 1990, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution, Deborah Warner, asked: “What is a scientific instrument, when did it become one, and why?” How would you answer her questions today?
8. It is often said that Darwin’s attitudes towards women and/or non-European races are typical of the Victorian era. Do you agree?

END OF PAPER