

NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Part III

Questions released at 12 noon on Monday 13 February 2012
Answers to be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 20 February 2012

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 20th February 2012. 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. “The anatomists Leonardo da Vinci and William Hunter agreed that the accurate representation of forms could be viewed as a ‘universal language’ of the eye which transcended the confusion of tongues and verbal categories.” Discuss this claim with respect to medieval and/or early modern medical and anatomical images.
2. When is idealization compatible with scientific realism?
3. “Patients did not really become more active in drug testing in the course of the twentieth century; historians and sociologists just started giving them more attention.” Assess this claim.
4. How has scientific knowledge travelled from place to place? Discuss in relation to commerce and empire.
5. Is explanatory power truth-conducive?
6. Following either Kuhn’s or Popper’s view, is it possible to maintain that scientific progress is cumulative?
7. How does Foucault’s concept of “a new technology of power whose essential elements were the disciplines” affect our view of the history of the sciences?
8. In what ways, if at all, did Darwin’s *Descent of Man* (1871) attempt to intervene in contemporary public debates about race and gender?

END OF PAPER