

NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Part III

Questions released at 12 noon on Wednesday 8 March 2017
Answers to be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday 15 March 2017

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 thirteen questions.*

The two essays should be submitted in duplicate to the Departmental Office by 12 noon on Wednesday 15 March 2017. Students are also required to upload their examinable work to the HPS Part III Coursework site on Moodle. 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. The essays should be typed on only **one** side of the paper and each essay should be firmly stapled.*

Hand in your essays with a completed submission form (downloadable from Moodle) listing the number of each question attempted.

NST Part III History and Philosophy of Science

Set essays

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

1. The argument for medical nihilism is not based merely on the empirical data pertaining to contemporary medical interventions. What else should one base such an inference on? Why?
2. How do institutions and methods of agricultural modernization work to consolidate or redistribute power? Respond with references to historical examples.
3. “Wounded artifacts may be compelling not only as witnesses to the violence of history, but as signs of use” (Stephen Greenblatt). What are “wounded artifacts” and what is their significance?
4. Are philosophical ideas legitimate framing devices for inquiry in history of science?
5. Is a science of well-being a viable pursuit?
6. How can historians account for the success of particular images in modern science?
7. How has the history of the patient changed over the past fifty years?
8. Some have argued that climate change should not be understood as a threat, but as an opportunity. Are there convincing historical grounds for this view?
9. Should the distinction between the making and the communicating of scientific knowledge be eradicated?
10. What is the role of politics, broadly understood, in shaping how museums display their exhibits?
11. “Scientists face problems of inductive risk; therefore, science is not objective”. What, if anything, is wrong with this argument?
12. Is the history of medicine in early twentieth century China best described as a global or postcolonial history of science?
13. Current experimental evidence does not support the claim that nonhuman animals read minds. Discuss.

END OF PAPER