



SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY AND LANGUAGE SCIENCES

MIND, MATTER AND LANGUAGE

PHIL08014

Degree Examination

Exam Date: 10/12/2013 **From and To:** 09:30am – 11:30am

Exam Diet: December 2013

Please read full instructions before commencing writing

Exam paper information

- Answer a total of three questions and choose at least one from each section

Special instructions

- None

Special items

- None

This examination will be marked anonymously

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<p>Choose at least one and at most two of the questions from the section immediately below</p>

PART I
Philosophy of Mind

1. "I can doubt the existence of the physical world. I cannot doubt the existence of my mind. Therefore my mind must be distinct from the physical world."

Is this a good argument for Substance Dualism?

2. Are mental states identical to brain states?

3. What is eliminative materialism? Evaluate the strength of the position.

4. Describe Searle's Chinese Room thought experiment. Does it succeed in undermining the claims of Strong Artificial Intelligence? What are the best and worst features of Searle's argument?

5. Could a notebook or a smartphone form part of the physical basis of your mind? What arguments for and against do you regard as the key arguments?

6. What is higher-order thought, and how could higher-order thought explain conscious experience?

Please turn over...

<p>Choose at least one and at most two of the questions from the section immediately below</p>

PART II

Philosophy of Language

Choose one or two questions to answer from the below section

7. What does it mean to say that a language is compositional and why should we regard natural language as being compositional?

8. What is Frege's distinction between sense and reference, and what is this distinction meant to help explain?

9. Does Grice provide a convincing account of conversational implicature? Choose one or more good objections to Grice's account. Assess whether Grice's account can be defended from the objection(s).

10. Williamson considers several objections to the knowledge norm of assertion. Describe one of them, explaining clearly why it appears to present a challenge to the knowledge norm. How does Williamson respond to this objection?

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