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Suggested answers for the

Philosophy of Science

Exam June 12th 2009

(Closed book)

This way of conducting an exam is to some extent novel, and this fact should be kept in mind when passing a grade. There is no previous experience, and any doubt should be resolved in favor of the student.

Question 1: See slide 1. Definitely yes. The paper uses the standard approach of economics.

Question 2: See slide 8. The phrase “normal science” is due to Kuhn. The paper definitely belongs to normal science.

Question 3: See slide 4. The phrase “novel fact” belongs to Latakos and would indicate something completely unexpected. There are no unexpected facts in this paper.

Question 4: See slide 4. A single statement cannot be falsified. A discussion of the Quine-Duhem thesis could be entered into the answer.

Question 5: See slide 17 on replication. A discussion of the concepts of replication would be appropriate. Some scientific replication has been done internationally.

Question 6: See p. 222. The paper takes an exception and households are not, as is usual, only concerned with their own utility, but also broader issues.

Question 7: See slide 14 and the reading list. A brief discussion of the pros and cons of the contingent valuation method is appropriate.

Question 8: This is a difficult question, and failure to answer it correctly should not be dealt with harshly. If all the costs of a unit are not included in the unit’s calculations, it will not be possible to achieve Pareto Optimality.

Question 9: See slide 9. The answer is: Not necessarily, due to the theorem of second best.

Question 10: See slide 7. A brief discussion of McCloskey would be appropriate.