

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS



MAY/JUNE 2009 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 2207 Principles and Perspectives of Science

Date: Tuesday 9th June 2009

Time: 10.30 – 11.30

Please remember to write your name and surname as well as the question number on each foolscap.

Answer ONE question

1. Karl Popper rejects the view that the method of science is essentially inductive and he proposes falsification instead. Discuss the reasons given for rejecting induction as the proper way to do science and explain what Popper means by falsification.
2. Thomas Kuhn distinguishes between normal science and extraordinary or revolutionary science. Discuss with reference to the different approaches or methods used by scientists in their work.
3. Imre Lakatos presents scientific research programmes as the model of growth in scientific knowledge to “explain and further strengthen Popper’s sophisticated falsification and to present scientific revolutions not as constituting religious conversions but rather as rational progress”. Discuss.
4. Does the 16th and 17th Century scientific revolution concerning the structure of the universe conform to Kuhn’s concept of a paradigm shift?