

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS**

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Assessment Test: Semester 2, 2008-2009
Study Unit: PHI 2207
Date of Test: 2009
Time: 1 hour

Answer ONE question

1. Karl Popper holds that scientific theories cannot be proved or disproved by experiments; they can only be refuted by better theories. Discuss.
2. Explain T.S. Kuhn's analysis of the process of growth of scientific knowledge and discuss whether this analysis introduces an element of irrationality in the process used by scientists.
3. In his 'Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes' Imre Lakatos attempts to combine Popper's ideas on falsification and Kuhn's idea that a paradigm is prerequisite for the growth of scientific knowledge. Discuss.
4. Explain why the development that took place in the 16th and 17th centuries in the knowledge of the structure of the universe is known as *the scientific revolution*.