

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF ARTS



JUNE 2011 SESSION EXAMINATIONS

PHI 2207 Principles and Perspectives of Science

11.45 – 12.45

Wednesday 1st June 2011

NO DICTIONARIES ALLOWED

Answer ONE question (100 marks)

1. "Kuhn's account of progress in science is based on his concept of a paradigm, its development and eventual rejection followed by the establishment of a new paradigm." Discuss.
2. Discuss why Karl Popper rejects inductivism and proposes falsificationism as the method used by scientists in the development of their theories.
3. Discuss Imre Lakatos' methodology of scientific research programmes and show whether it manages to avoid the problems of Popper's naturalistic falsification and the element of irrationality in Kuhn's account of the growth of scientific knowledge.

Either:

- 4a. Explain whether it is correct to consider the ideas of the Ancient Greek philosophers and scientists about the structure of the universe as scientific.

Or:

- 4b. Why is the work of Nicholas Copernicus, Johannes Kepler and Galileo Galilei on the structure of the universe considered to be revolutionary?