SESSION FOUR

EXPERIENCE, JUSTIFICATION, AND INFERENCE

STUDY EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Read the following passages, and think about whether they contain an inductive or a deductive argument:

a. 'Since tests proved that it took at least 2.3 seconds to operate the bolt on Oswald's rifle, Oswald obviously could not have fired three times – hitting Kennedy twice and Connelly once – in 5.6 seconds or less' ('Autopsy on the Warren Commission', *Time*, Vol.88, No.12, September 16, 1966).

b. 'A gardener who cultivates his own garden with his own hands, unites in his own person the three different characteristics, of landlord, farmer, and labourer. His produce, therefore, should pay him the rent of the first, the profit of the second, and the wages of the third' (Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*).

c. 'It is evident from the state of the country, from the habits of the people, from the experience we have had on the point itself, that it is impracticable to raise any very considerable sums by direct taxation. Tax laws have in vain

been multiplied: new methods to enforce the collection have in vain been tried; the public expectation has been uniformly disappointed, and the treasuries of the states have remained empty' (Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist*, Number XII).

* Source of Exercise D: Irving M. Copi, *Introduction to Logic*, third edn. (London: The Macmillan Company, 1968), pp.21-22.

Exercise 2

Consider the following questions:

a. Why does Hume conclude that we are not rationally justified in inferring causal connections in nature? Are you convinced?

b. What is Hume's constant conjuntion theory of causation?

c. Is our belief that the sun will rise tomorrow simply a matter of habit and constant conjunction?

d. What is the significance of probability to Hume's philosophy? How does he relate it to belief formation?

Bibliography

- Copi, Irving M., *Introduction to Logic*, third edn. (London: The Macmillan Company, 1968).