

Semantics of Scientific Theories:
Study Questions for Lecture 2, “Russell, Ramsey and the
Roots of Structuralism (Apr. 21)”

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1. What exactly is “structure” for Russell?
2. What is “objectivity”, and how does Russell think the focus on structure allows one to achieve it? What is the role of “description” here, and how does that bear on the nature of scientific theory and scientific knowledge?
3. Why does Russell think that inferences to structure are more reliable than inferences to “substance”? What does that entail for the possibility of a realist interpretation of scientific theories?
4. Why does Russell place so much weight on the idea of the equivalence (or sameness) of two *prima facie* different structures?

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