Contents

Acknowledgements 9 Introduction 11

Consistency 13

1. Consistent Sets of Beliefs 13

Expressing Beliefs in Sentences 17

- 2. Beliefs and Words 17
- 3. Declarative Sentences 19
- 4. Ambiguity 23

When is a Sentence True? 27

- 5. Truth and References 27
- 6. Borderline Cases and Bizarre Situations 31
- 7. Misleading Statements 36
- 8. Possible Situations and Meanings 38

Testing for Consistency and Validity 42

- 9. Consistent Sets of Short Sentences 42
- 10. The Tableau Technique 45
- 11. Arguments 53

How are Complex Sentences Built Up? 61

- 12. Phrase-classes 61
- 13. Phrase-markers 68
- 14. Scope 76
- 15. Context-free Grammars 80