

M.A. FOURTH LEVEL EXAMINATION

**IT4012: DANTE ALIGHIERI**

May 2004 - Time allowed: 2 hours

Candidates must answer **TWO** questions  
Candidates **CANNOT** answer two questions from the same section.  
Each question is worth 50% so spend an equal amount of time on each.  
Answer in English.

**SECTION A**

1. **EITHER:** (a) Describe and explain the organisation of Heaven in Dante's *Paradiso*?

**OR:** (b) "Voialtri pochi che drizzaste il collo  
per tempo al pan de li angeli, del quale  
vivesi qui ma non sen vien satollo,

metter potete ben per l'alto sale  
vostro navigio, servando mio solco  
dinanzi a l'acqua che ritorna equale."

(*Par. II. 10-15*)

According/

According to the quotation above, what sort of readership does Dante envisage for the *Paradiso*, and how is this reflected in the poem?

**OR:** (c) The Beatrice of the *Paradiso* has been described as "an elder sister with a Ph.D." (Bergin). Discuss.

**OR:** (d) How does Dante address more earthly concerns in the *Paradiso*, if at all?

### SECTION B

2. **EITHER:** (a) "The *Vita Nuova* is a treatise by a poet, written for poets, on the art of poetry." (Barbara Reynolds) Discuss this view of Dante's *Vita Nova*.

**OR:** (b) What does Dante say about love in the *Vita Nova*?

**OR:** (c) How do the three major *canzoni* fit into the *Vita Nova*? Consider their content and their position in the work in your answer.

**OR:** (d) To what extent might the *Vita Nova* be described as a conventional story of *fino amore*?

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