

M.A. THIRD LEVEL EXAMINATION
IT3012: FOURTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE

January 2005 - Time allowed: 2 hours

Candidates should answer **TWO** questions.
Candidates may only answer **ONE** question from **EACH** section

SECTION A : Dante's *Purgatorio*

1. What does the *Purgatorio* say about art and poetry, and how does this relate to Dante as a poet?
2. How does the relationship between Dante and Virgil develop through the *Purgatorio*?
3. What are Dante's ideas about love as expressed in the *Purgatorio*?
4. How important is ritual in the *Purgatorio*?
5. In what ways, if any, is the *Purgatorio* concerned with the world of the living?

SECTION/

SECTION B: Petrarch / Boccaccio

1. Are the characters in the stories in the *Decameron* more interesting than the narrators?
 2. What view does Boccaccio present of human wit and intelligence in the *Decameron*?
 3. To what extent can Petrarch's poetry be described as religious?
 4. 'If we learn little about Laura in the course of the *Canzoniere*, we do learn a great deal about Petrarch.' Discuss.
 5. Compare the figures of Beatrice and Laura as portrayed in the *Canzoniere* and the *Purgatorio*.
 6. Compare the treatment of the theme of nobility in the *Purgatorio* and *Decameron*.
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