

M.A. THIRD LEVEL EXAMINATION

IT3012: FOURTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE

January 2007 - Time allowed: 2 hours

Candidates should answer 2 questions

Candidates may only answer 1 question from each section

SECTION A: Dante's *Purgatorio*

- EITHER 1. How does Dante's meeting with Marco Lombardo in the central cantos of the *Purgatorio* inform our reading of the *Purgatorio* as a whole?
- OR 2. In what ways does Dante introduce Classical elements in the *Purgatorio*? What does this bring to the poem?
- OR 3. Compare the characters of Virgil and Statius in the *Purgatorio*.
- OR 4. 'La rievocazione nostalgica [...] permea per intero il *Purgatorio*.' (Umberto Bosco) Discuss.
- OR 5. How/
- OR 5. How important is an understanding of allegory in reading the *Purgatorio*?

SECTION B: Petrarch

- EITHER 1. The very existence of Laura was questioned in Petrarch's lifetime. Based on your reading of the *Canzoniere*, how far would you agree with such scepticism?
- OR 2. In what ways might Petrarch's political poems be described as humanist?
- OR 3. What is the significance of the world of Nature in Petrarch's poetry?
- OR 4. The Petrarch of the *Canzoniere* has been described as a fragmented personality. To what extent would you agree with this evaluation on the basis of your reading of the *Canzoniere*?
- OR 5. Compare the treatment of love in Petrarch's *Canzoniere* and in Dante's *Purgatorio*. (Your answer to this should not overlap with your answer to any question from Section A).
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