

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

London in Literature

COURSE CODE : ENGLN29

DATE : 17-MAY-06

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

Answer three questions. The terms 'literature' and 'literary' and 'work' or 'works' may be taken to include, where appropriate, film and song, and the term 'author' to include film directors and authors of song lyrics. Unless otherwise specified, you may, if you wish, confine your answers to the literature of a single period, or the work of a single author.

Candidates must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

1. London, thou art the flour of Cities all.

(William Dunbar)

Write an essay on medieval representations of London.

2. In early city comedy, the society we are made to desire is essentially a capitalist one in which families are broken by possessive individualism; in the later plays, we are made to desire a feudal city characterized by deference to patriarchal authority and social status.

(Lawrence Venuti)

Examine this claim in the light of any city comedies with which you are familiar.

3. It is characteristic of city life that all sorts of people meet and mingle together who never fully comprehend one another.

(Robert Park)

Consider any such encounters you have come across in your reading for the course.

4. Not only have colonial authors lived and worked in a variety of different boroughs, but they have also imagined, perceived and described the city in different ways.

(Sukhdev Sandhu)

Discuss how authors from abroad have represented London.

TURN OVER

5. Examine the treatment of youth culture in any work of London literature that you have studied.
6. Write an essay on the significance of London as a commercial centre in the literature of London.
7. Discuss some of the ways in which writers have imagined suburbia in any work or works set in London.

8. The city as reality and metaphor is at the heart of my work.

(Salman Rushdie)

Write about London 'as reality and metaphor' in the work of Salman Rushdie or in any other author or authors you consider appropriate.

9. Discuss how one or more writers have compared London with other cities in their work.
10. Write an essay on what Sir Richard Fanshawe, in 'An Ode upon the occasion of His Majesties Proclamation in the yeare 1630. Commanding the Gentry to reside upon their estates in the Country', called 'The smoaky glory of the Towne'.

11. 'I did well to come,' I said, proceeding to dress with speed and care.
'I like the spirit of this great London which I feel around me. Who but a coward would pass his whole life in hamlets, and forever abandon his faculties to the eating rust of obscurity?'

(Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*, 1853)

Comment on Lucy Snowe's enthusiasm in the light of any literature you have read on this course.

12. Consider the uses made by authors of London's church buildings.
13. Write about the presentation of children or the family in the literature of London.

CONTINUED

14. Seek not from prentices to learn the way,
Those fabling boys will turn thy steps astray;
Ask the grave tradesman to direct thee right,
He ne'er deceives, but when he profits by 't.

(John Gay, *Trivia*)

Write about some of the ways in which deception has featured in literary works set in London.

15. You don't go into Soho to see films, because Soho *is* a film.

(Colin MacInnes)

Consider the representation of London as entertainment or spectacle in any two or more works with which you are familiar.

16. She went from street to street, and all the glory of London had departed. Against the sinister, the threatening, monstrous inhumanity of the limitless city, there was nothing now but this supreme, ugly fact of a pursuit - the pursuit of the undesired, persistent male.

(H.G. Wells, *Ann Veronica*, 1909)

Write an essay on sex and the city.

17. Write about the portrayal of mental illness in the literature of London.
18. Write an essay on some literary versions of the 'Man about Town' from Elizabethan times to the present day. You may concentrate on a limited period and two or three examples if you wish.
19. The satirists offer us many views of London: scenic views, and moral views; in many subtle ways the former assist the latter.

(Ian Donaldson)

How? Examine some specific instances.

TURN OVER

20. Lurking in the civic problems of a multicultural city is the moral difficulty of arousing sympathy for those who are Other.

(Richard Sennett)

Consider the presentation of 'those who are Other' in any two or more works you have read for this course.

21. Indeed, if it is practicable, a square or circular form should be preferred in all capital cities as best adapted to grandeur and convenience; in the center of which in a spacious opening the King's palace should be situated in which case he would be surrounded by his subjects, and the whole, if the expression may be allowed, would resemble a hive of bees.

(John Gwynne, 1766)

Write about the relationship of the monarch to the town.

22. There were gardens to many of the houses, and trees by the pavement side; with an air of freshness breathing up and down, which in these days would be sought in vain. Fields were nigh at hand, through which the New River took its winding course, and where there was merry haymaking in the summer time.

(Charles Dickens, *Barnaby Rudge*)

Write about the role of the bucolic in the literature of London.

23. Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote of

the muddy tide of the Thames, reflecting nothing, and hiding a million of unclean secrets within its breast - a sort of guilty conscience as it were, unwholesome with the rivulets of sin that constantly flow into it.

Consider how the Thames has been portrayed in literary representations of London.

CONTINUED

24. The whole human being appears in some contexts to disappear with the dirt.

(Adrian Stokes)

Write about the function of 'dirt' in any literature you have read for this course.

25. I discovered evidence that London was interlaced with connecting tunnels, home of a troglodytic race that had gone underground at the time of the Great Fire ... Others had hinted of a London under London in a variety of texts as far back as Chaucer.

(Michael Moorcock, *Mother London*)

How important is subterranean London in the literature of the city?

END OF PAPER