

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications :-*

*B.A.*

### **MES G103: European Perspectives**

COURSE CODE : **MESTG103**

UNIT VALUE : **1.00**

DATE : **03-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

02-C0999-3-70

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**TURN OVER**

## MES G103 EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

- Answer **THREE** questions.
- Questions must be attempted from **THREE** sections.
- Do **NOT** answer a question on the topic of your assessed course essay.
- Do **NOT** draw substantially on the same material for more than one answer.
- Please use different examination books for answering questions in sections A-B and questions in sections C-D.

### SECTION A

1. 'That we accede to claims of state authority is plain. That we *ought* to accede to state authority is not so obvious.' Discuss.
2. *Either* (a) In what sense is Rousseau's General Will both *one* will and the will of all?  
*Or* (b) What is the significance of the claim that hypothetical contracts lack binding force?
3. *Either* (a) 'If everyone had enough, it would be of no moral consequence whether some had more than others.' Discuss.  
*Or* (b) What is equality? Is it a defensible ideal?
4. Is it ever legitimate for the state to redistribute from the wealthy to the less fortunate?

### SECTION B

5. Does Descartes succeed in providing adequate foundations for knowledge?
6. Is human freedom an illusion?
7. Is there any reason why I should do my duty?
8. 'To say that science is better than magic is to fail to understand magic.' Discuss.

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### **SECTION C**

9. 'The state represents the permanent interests of society rather than the partisan sympathies of any group of politicians.' Discuss.
10. Are the main political ideologies on the decline or not?
11. Can we dispense with political parties in democratic societies?
12. To what extent is voting behaviour a rational and issue-based activity?

### **SECTION D**

13. Discuss the relationship between the church and state in early modern Europe.
14. Why did the idea of "absolute" sovereignty become such an important issue during the Reformation?
15. To what extent did the Reformation and the Enlightenment further the secularization of Europe?
16. Could it be argued that there was a distinct early modern European period?

**END OF PAPER**