

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

*University of London*

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For The Following Qualification:-*

*B.A.*

**French F3100: French Texts I**

**COURSE CODE : FREN3100**

**UNIT VALUE : 0.50**

**DATE : 23-MAY-03**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

**FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY:  
BODIES AND SOULS - IN SEARCH OF EQUILIBRIUM**

*Answer TWO questions, ONE from EACH section. Use a separate answer book for each question.*

*You may answer in English or in French, but no special credit will be given for writing in French rather than in English.*

*Please note that AT LEAST ONE option paper MUST be written in English.*

**DO NOT BASE BOTH ANSWERS IN THIS PAPER, OR AN ANSWER IN THIS PAPER AND ONE IN ANOTHER OPTION PAPER, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.**

**SECTION A**

*PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.*

1. In 'De l'institution des enfans', Montaigne recommends philosophy above all things to his pupil, saying 'la philosophie, qui, comme formatrice des jugemens et des meurs, sera sa principale leçon, a ce privilege de se mesler par tout'. Discuss Montaigne's views on education in this chapter in the light of this remark.
2. 'La consequence que nous voulons tirer de la ressemblance des evenemens est mal seure, d'autant qu'ils sont tousjours dissemblables : il n'est aucune qualité si universelle en cette image des choses que la diversité et varieté.' Discuss Montaigne's views on routes to knowledge, as expressed in 'De l'experience', in the light of this quotation from that chapter.
3. 'J'aimerois mieux m'entendre bien en moy qu'en Ciceron. De l'experience que j'ay de moy, je trouve assez de quoy me faire sage, si j'estoy bon escolier.' Discuss Montaigne's search for understanding of himself and the world in ONE or MORE of the prescribed chapters in the light of this quotation from 'De l'experience'.
4. Discuss Molière's comic exploration of detachment and self-love in *Le Misanthrope*.
5. 'The microcosm of a household and a family provides the perfect context in which to explore the comic effects of an excessive pursuit of erudition.' Discuss Molière's *Les Femmes savantes* in the light of this assertion.

**CONTINUED**

6. 'Irony and charm alone temper the bleak message of La Fontaine's *Fables*.' Discuss.
7. 'Fable wisdom invites us not so much to seek the middle way as to follow the humblest and lowest path.' Discuss La Fontaine's *Fables* in the light of this assertion.

## SECTION B

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

8. 'For Montaigne, Molière and La Fontaine, happiness is to be found through achieving equilibrium, especially between body and soul.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE of the prescribed authors.
9. 'The choice of the comic perspective, far from being a frivolous one, is the result of a deliberate philosophical strategy.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE of the prescribed authors.
10. Discuss the meaning of nature and the part it plays in the work of TWO or MORE of the prescribed authors.
11. Compare and contrast the views on wisdom of La Fontaine with those of Montaigne AND/OR Molière in the light of the following lines from the fable 'L'Astrologue qui se laisse tomber dans un puits':

Un astrologue un jour se laissa choir  
 Au fond d'un puits. On lui dit: Pauvre bête,  
 Tandis qu'à peine à tes pieds tu peux voir,  
 Penses-tu lire au-dessus de ta tête?

12. Compare Molière's and Montaigne's treatment of the themes of learning and language in 'De l'institution des enfans' and *Les Femmes savantes* in the light of the following words of Henriette in Act III, scene 4:

Les doctes entretiens ne sont point mon affaire;  
 J'aime à vivre aisément, et, dans tout ce qu'on dit,  
 Il faut se trop peiner pour avoir de l'esprit,  
 C'est une ambition que je n'ai point en tête;  
 Je me trouve fort bien, ma mère, d'être bête,  
 Et j'aime mieux n'avoir que de communs propos,  
 Que de me tourmenter pour dire de beaux mots.

**END OF PAPER**