

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

French F2502: Enlightenment and the Revolution: the 18th Century

COURSE CODE : FREN2502

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 16-MAY-02

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 2 hours

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TURN OVER

ENLIGHTENMENT AND REVOLUTION: THE 18TH CENTURY

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.

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

SECTION A

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

1. Discuss, with reference to BOTH works, the view that 'reading consecutively Montesquieu's *Lettres persanes* and Rousseau's *Contrat social*, we see the unfolding drama of the individual's subjection, protest against violence, claiming of fundamental rights and choice of political freedom'. You may refer also, if you wish, to texts from the dossiers *The Clash of the New Order and the Old*.
2. To what extent, in your view, are the *Lettres persanes* and the *Contrat social* structured on a similar hope for contractual relations? Your comparison of the two works may refer also to relevant material in the dossiers.
3. Discuss the climactic fusion of liberty and death in BOTH the *Lettres persanes* AND the *Contrat social*, referring also, if you wish, to material in the dossiers.
4. Discuss the Enlightenment representation of the relation to the different other (woman OR foreigner OR adherent of another faith, OR any combination of these) in TWO or MORE of the following: *Lettres persanes*, *Contrat social*, any material in the dossiers.
5. 'The personal and the political gift of self in both the *Lettres persanes* and the *Contrat social* means renouncing possessiveness – toward persons, objects, even the self.' Discuss with reference to BOTH works. You may refer also, if you wish, to relevant material in the dossiers.
6. 'This pre-Revolutionary writing places hope not in triumphant revolution but in endless critical and self-critical thinking.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE of the following: *Lettres persanes*, *Contrat social*, any material in the dossiers.

CONTINUED

SECTION B

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

7. 'In that vision of a better society that is Voltaire's England, religion remains the central issue, the problem calling for solution.' Discuss the *Lettres philosophiques* in the light of this statement.
8. 'Through his contrasted portraits of Madame de la Carlière and the Chevalier Desroches and through their interaction in the narrative, Diderot suggests the impossibility, in his era, of an enlightened sexual relationship.' What do you understand by this comment on *Madame de la Carlière*, and how far do you agree with it?
9. 'The master-servant conflict between the Count and Figaro is a struggle over the possession of women rather than a class struggle.' How far do you agree with this assertion about Beaumarchais's *Mariage de Figaro*?
10. 'The *Cahier rouge* is constructed on the tension between Benjamin's filial and sexual relationships.' With reference to ONE or MORE relevant episodes, discuss Constant's account of his adolescent passions in the light of this remark.
11. With reference to TWO or MORE works studied in Term 2, discuss the view that the radical questioning of sexuality in works of the late Enlightenment and early post-Revolutionary years should be understood as a turning-in upon the individual subject of the political critique of the times.

END OF PAPER