

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

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

COURSE CODE : FREN2502

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 04-MAY-04

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

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. 'Céder à la force est un acte de nécessité, non de volonté; c'est tout au plus un acte de prudence' (Rousseau, *Contrat social*, I, 3) – and it is not, therefore, a free or virtuous act. With reference to this statement by Rousseau, discuss the role of women in Montesquieu's *Lettres persanes*. You may also refer, if you wish, to relevant extracts from the dossiers *The Clash of the New Order and the Old*.
2. Compare and discuss the *Lettres persanes* AND the *Contrat social* in the light of their handling of the inexorable degeneration and death of governments.
3. 'The process of secularisation is never completed; the religious dimension does not die at the birth of modern political reality.' Discuss the tension between the political and the religious in the *Lettres persanes* AND the *Contrat social*. You may also refer, if you wish, to any relevant material from the dossiers.
4. Explain and discuss the fragility of egalitarian political regimes, as represented in BOTH the *Lettres persanes* AND the *Contrat social*.
5. Discuss the critical representation of sovereign power in BOTH the *Lettres persanes* AND the *Contrat social*. You may also refer, if you wish, to any relevant material from the dossiers.
6. Analyse and discuss some of the uses of the ideas of contract AND/OR gift, in BOTH the *Lettres persanes* AND the *Contrat social*, to represent egalitarian justice.

TURN OVER

SECTION B

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

7. 'Dans les *Lettres philosophiques*, Voltaire établit une relation entre l'expansion du commerce anglais et les progrès de la tolérance.' Discuss.
8. 'Together, Freind and Birton constitute the real Voltaire and give us a remarkable insight into the way a great man grappled with the greatest of all problems.' To what extent, in your view, do these two characters in the *Histoire de Jenni* represent Voltaire's views on religion?
9. '*Madame de la Carlière*, by stressing sexual difference rather than inequality, holds out more hope for the man-woman relationship than the events of the story appear to admit.' To what extent do you agree with this comment on Diderot's tale ?
10. 'The complexity of the *Cahier rouge* blurs, without abolishing them, the borders between opposed elements: concept and desire, the tragic and the comic, affirmation and negation.' Discuss the autobiography of Constant in the light of this statement.
11. With reference to TWO Enlightenment writings studied in Term 2, discuss the extent to which, in that era, religion is represented in terms of its social significance.
12. With reference to TWO works studied in Term 2, discuss the view that the late Enlightenment and the early post-revolutionary era were marked by a literature of escapism from political issues.

END OF PAPER