

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

2005-2006

FREN4104 FRENCH CARIBBEAN FICTION

Write TWO essays, ONE from each Section.

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 ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE, OR AN ANSWER IN THIS COURSE AND ONE IN ANOTHER OPTION, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.

You must refer to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the French Department's 'BA courses: Assessed Essays Booklet' for further information on the length of essays, how they are assessed, submission procedures and penalties for late submission, as well as for essay writing guidelines. Your attention is also drawn to the statement on 'Plagiarism and Non-originality' in that booklet and in the French Department Student Handbook.

Titles may be selected only from the following list: rewording of titles is not permitted.

SECTION A

1. Discuss the relationship between religion and political struggle in Roumain's *Gouverneurs de la rosée*.
2. 'L'expression complexe d'un profond fatalisme joint à un indéradicable optimisme.' To what extent does this formulation apply to Schwarz-Bart's *Pluie et vent sur Télumée Miracle*?
3. 'The open-endedness of Glissant's fiction makes any fixed definitive view of the past, any vision of a clear, linear and unambiguous line of descent, impossible.' To what extent is this an adequate description of *Le Quatrième Siècle*?
4. Discuss Depestre's use of satire in the portrayal of dictatorship in *Le Mât de cocagne*.

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5. Analyse Texaco's relationship to both the city and the countryside in Chamoiseau's *Texaco*.

6. 'Condé's *Traversée de la mangrove* is antihierarchical, allowing the validity and autonomy of each textual subject to persist in its specificity.' Discuss.
7. Analyse the themes of community and solitude in Maximin's *L'Ile et une nuit*.

SECTION B

8. Discuss the theme of women's struggle for autonomy and equality in TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied.
9. Analyse the portrayal of the psychological legacy of slavery in TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied.
10. Discuss the role of traditional Caribbean folk culture and beliefs in TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied.
11. 'In French Caribbean literature the desire for social progress is often undermined by nostalgia for the past.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied.
12. To what extent are questions of race and racial difference important themes in TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied?
13. 'The landscape and the forces of nature are endowed with various kinds of symbolic significance in much Caribbean literature.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied.
14. Compare representations of 'heroic' and 'anti-heroic' characters in TWO or MORE of the novels you have studied.

END OF PAPER