

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:–

*B.A.*

**French F3300: French Texts III**

**COURSE CODE : FREN3300**

**UNIT VALUE : 0.50**

**DATE : 16–MAY–05**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

## THE DESIRE FOR COMMUNITY: LITERATURE AS ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 18TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

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 answering in French rather than 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. 'Pity confers its dynamism on life in the state of nature, and thence, on the writing of the *Discours sur l'inégalité*, but it has limited efficacy for the cause of justice in society.' In the light of this comment, discuss the functions of pity in Rousseau's *Discours sur l'inégalité*.
2. In the *Discours sur l'inégalité*, Rousseau refers to 'les barrières imaginaires qui séparent les peuples'. Discuss the implications of this expression in the context of the *Lettre à Philopolis* AND/OR *L'Etat de guerre*, referring also to the *Discours sur l'inégalité*.
3. 'The predominance of family relationships in the conversation entails a conservatism that defeats the work's utopian aspirations.' Discuss Diderot's *Entretien d'un père avec ses enfants* in the light of this observation.
4. Discuss the significance of the jazz era for Leiris's questioning of manhood in *L'Age d'homme*.
5. 'Leiris argues that ethnocentrism is effectively resisted only when one self-aware ethnocentricity can encounter another in mutual comprehension.' Discuss ONE or MORE of the essays in *Cinq Etudes d'ethnologie* in the light of this statement.
6. Discuss the view that the foundations of true community are fully present in the unintegrated family of Duras's *La Pluie d'été*.
7. 'De Gaulle a décrété le deuil national pour la mort de Roosevelt. Pas de deuil pour les déportés morts' (Duras, *La Douleur*). Discuss, with reference to ONE or MORE of its narratives, the view that *La Douleur* enacts an effort to carry out the mourning process suppressed at the end of the Second World War.

TURN OVER

## SECTION B

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

8. Discuss the investment of hope or despair in social change that you find in TWO or MORE of the following works: *Discours sur l'inégalité*; *Cinq Etudes d'ethnologie*; *La Pluie d'été*.
9. 'Rousseau and Duras share an intense perception of inequality at its most extreme: at the point when one person's life is at the disposal of another.' Discuss this observation with reference to the *Discours sur l'inégalité* AND 'Monsieur X dit ici Pierre Rabier' in *La Douleur*.
10. 'Only a radically humbled humanism is appropriate in modern writing.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE works studied in this option.
11. How possible is it, in your view, to identify meeting-points or analogies between Leiris's *L'Age d'homme* and ONE or MORE of the essays in *Cinq Etudes d'ethnologie*?
12. 'Au coeur du monde [...] il y a quelque chose de si brûlant qui délire, qui crie tout seul, demandant simplement qu'on l'entende et qu'on ait assez de courage pour s'y dévouer tout entier' (Leiris, *L'Age d'homme*). Discuss any TWO or MORE works studied in this option, in the light of this evocation of a crying voice audible beneath or beyond language and theoretical constructions.
13. To what extent, in your view, is it possible to consider modern literary writing as revolutionary or reformist? Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE works studied in this option.
14. Discuss TWO or MORE works studied in this option in the light of the view that modern literature must strive to negotiate a new relationship with myth AND/OR with the law AND/OR with the existing order.

END OF PAPER