

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

French F3100: French Texts I

COURSE CODE : **FREN3100**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **20-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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TURN OVER

TRANSGRESSION IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

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. 'While the first and third parts of *Le Jeu d'Adam* are essential to the development of the play's theme, the Cain and Abel section is unnecessary, and in fact distracts attention from the central argument of the play.' Discuss.
2. 'It is the themes of treason and betrayal, rather than those of love and marriage, which predominate in Chrétien's *Cligés*, and which link the two parts of the romance.' Discuss.
3. Discuss Chrétien's *Le Conte du graal* in the light of the following remark: 'The advice given to Perceval leads him into transgression, rather than helping him to avoid it'.
4. 'Though it appears light-hearted and inconsequential, *Aucassin et Nicolette* questions so many of the hierarchies and codes of medieval society that it should be read as a deeply serious text.' Discuss.
5. 'It is only because of human failings that Fortune and mischance can have such powerful effects in *La Mort le roi Artu*.' Discuss.
6. 'The *fabliaux* are not amoral; they have a system of morality which treats poverty as a transgressive state, tolerates duplicity, and positively endorses intelligence and opportunism.' Discuss.

CONTINUED

SECTION B

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

7. 'Fighting and physical violence are neither condemned nor questioned in medieval texts; on the contrary they are either glorified or treated as comic.' Discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE of the texts you have studied for this course.
8. 'Literary representation opens up a space in which women characters are allowed to play out what is forbidden to real women; but it is always clear that such transgression is possible only within the domain of fiction.' Discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE of the texts you have studied for this course.
9. 'Medieval authors were more concerned with entertaining their public than with teaching morality.' Discuss in relation to TWO or MORE texts you have studied for this course.
10. Compare and contrast the treatment of the theme of repentance in TWO or MORE of the texts you have studied for this course.
11. 'Even where it is not openly transgressive, heterosexual love is seldom presented in medieval texts as being above suspicion.' Discuss in relation to TWO or MORE texts you have studied for this course.

END OF PAPER