

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

French F3100: French Texts I

COURSE CODE : FREN3100

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 03–MAY–05

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

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 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. 'Perceval and Gauvain are both accused of serious transgressions, but Chrétien's text does not give the reader enough evidence to decide whether either man is indeed guilty as charged.' Discuss Chrétien de Troyes's *Le Conte du graal* in the light of this remark.
2. Discuss *Amadas et Ydoine* in the light of the following comment: 'The love theme creates difficulties for the narrator, who is more at ease castigating the faults of women than celebrating the sufferings and triumphs of true love'.
3. '*Aucassin et Nicolette* appears to attack established concepts of class, race, gender, religion, and family; yet at the end of the *chante-fable*, nothing has changed.' Discuss.
4. 'The flaws and failings of Arthur and his court are more significant than Fortune or mischance in causing the downfall of the Arthurian kingdom.' Discuss, with reference to *La Mort le roi Artu*.
5. 'Theophile, in his humanity, seems very insignificant in comparison with the figures of Satan and the Virgin, and with the spiritual domains of good and evil between which he oscillates.' To what extent do you agree with this view of Rutebeuf's *Le Miracle de Theophile*?
6. How far would you agree that Villon's *Testament* is 'a deeply moral work'?

TURN OVER

SECTION B

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR EACH QUESTION.

7. 'A comic situation is one which to the characters seems dangerous, but which implies no great threat to the audience or to humanity in general.' In the light of this definition, analyse the ways in which transgression is presented as comic in TWO or MORE texts you have studied for this course.
8. 'Women in medieval literature conform more often to the Eve stereotype of deceit, changeability, irrationality, and seduction, than to the goodness, obedience, and chastity of Mary.' Discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE texts studied for this course.
9. 'Whether written, spoken, or unsaid, the word is often central to the concept of transgression in medieval literature.' In the light of this comment, discuss TWO or MORE texts you have studied for this course.
10. Analyse and discuss the relationship between love and transgression in TWO or MORE texts studied for this course.
11. 'Medieval writers depict wrongdoing with either condemnation or understanding, but not both.' To what extent do you agree with this view? Base your answer on TWO or MORE texts you have studied for this course.

END OF PAPER