

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

German C311: Gottfried Von Strassburg And The Medieval Tristan Legend

COURSE CODE : **GERMC311**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **13-MAY-02**

TIME : **14.30**

TIME ALLOWED : **2 hours**

02-C0607-3-40

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TURN OVER

GERMC311

GOTTFRIED VON STRASSBURG AND THE MEDIEVAL TRISTAN LEGEND

Time allowed: TWO hours.

Answer TWO questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.

Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.

In answering any question, you are free to make comparisons with the versions of the Tristan story written by Thomas, Eilhart and Beroul.

1. 'It is a mistake to read the prologue to Gottfried's *Tristan* as an authoritative introduction to the narrative which follows.' Discuss.
2. 'The story of Riwalin and Blanscheflur as Gottfried presents it anticipates key elements in the story of Tristan and Isolt.' Discuss.
3. 'In Gottfried, the potion serves to suggest that it is fate, not choice, which makes Tristan and Isolt lovers.' Discuss.
4. Examine the contention that Gottfried's version of the wedding night scene presents Isolt as a victim of the feudal practice of marriage.
5. 'Although Marke observes Tristan and Isolt in the cave of lovers, he does not understand the significance of what he sees.' Discuss.
6. 'Tristan's reasons for contemplating marriage to Isolt's namesake at the end of Gottfried's text are entirely selfish and cynical.' Discuss.
7. 'Although they deceive Marke so persistently, Tristan and Isolt experience neither guilt nor shame.' Discuss.
8. Discuss the view that Isolt figures in Gottfried's text both as the temptress who reprises the role of Eve and as the ideal woman who makes it possible for Tristan to regain paradise.
9. 'The lengthy digressions which play such a prominent part in Gottfried's narrative complicate it unnecessarily.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER