

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:--

**B.A.**

**German C310: Parzival**

**COURSE CODE : GERMC310**

**UNIT VALUE : 0.50**

**DATE : 12-MAY-05**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours**

**GERMC310**

**WOLFRAM VON ESCHENBACH: *PARZIVAL***

Time allowed: **TWO** hours.

Answer **TWO** questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do not draw on the same material in more than one answer.

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

1. Write a commentary on the following passage from Wolfram's *Parzival*:

Swerz ruocht vernemn, dem tuon ich kuont  
wie im sîn dinc dâ nâch gestuont.  
desn prûeve ich niht der wochen zal,  
über wie lanc sider Parzivâl  
5 reit durch âventiure als ê.  
eins morgens was ein dünner snê,  
iedoch sô dicke wol, gesnît,  
als der noch frost den liuten gît.  
ez was ûf einem grôzen walt.  
10 im widergienc ein rîter alt,  
des part al grâ was gevar,  
dâ bî sîn vel licht unde clâr:  
die selben varwe truoc sîn wîp;  
diu bêdiu über blôzen lîp  
15 truogen grâwe röcke herte  
ûf ir bîhte verte.  
sîniu kint, zwuo juncfrowen,  
die man gerne mohte schowen,  
dâ giengen in der selben wât.  
20 daz riet in kiusches herzen rât:  
si giengen alle barfuoz.  
Parzivâl bôt sînen guoz  
dem grâwen rîter der dâ gienc;  
von des râte er sît gelücke enphienc.  
25 ez mohte wol ein hêrre sîn.  
dâ liefen frouwen bräckelîn.  
mit senften siten niht ze hêr  
gienc dâ rittr und knappen mêr  
mit zûhten ûf der gotes vart:  
30 genuog sô junc, gar âne bart.

**-TURN OVER-**

2. To what extent, if at all, does it matter that Belakane is a heathen?
3. 'In the end the comedy surrounding the figure of Feirefiz diminishes Wolfram's tale of suffering and redemption.' Discuss.
4. 'In his several encounters with Sigune Parzival exhibits his virtues as well as his shortcomings.' Discuss.
5. To what extent does Parzival's life epitomize the *nütziu arbeit* described in the work's epilogue?
6. 'Gawan's *wisheit* should not be overstated.' Discuss.
7. How civilized is the chivalric world of the Arthurian court?
8. 'Queen Secundille is just one of a number of victims of the plot of *Parzival*.' Discuss.
9. 'The narrator's defence of some of the more unpleasant figures in *Parzival* is indicative of Wolfram's technique of complex characterization.' Discuss.
10. To what extent are actions that are planned or carried out in secret ever morally justifiable in Wolfram's *Parzival*?