

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

German C310: Parzival

COURSE CODE : GERMC310

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 18-MAY-06

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 substantially 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*:

Môraz, wîn, sinopel rôt,
swâ nâch den napf ieslicher bôt,
swaz er trinkens kunde nennen,
daz mohter drinne erkennen
5 allez von des grâles kraft.
diu werde geselleschaft
hete wirtschafft vome grâl.
wol gemarcte Parzivâl
die rîcheit unt daz wunder grôz:
10 durch zuht in vrâgens doch verdrôz.
er dâhte 'mir riet Gurnamanz
mit grôzen triwen âne schranz,
ich solte vil gevâgen niht.
waz op mîn wesen hie geschiht
15 die mâze als dort pî im?
âne vrâge ich vernim
wiez dirre massenîe stêt.'
in dem gedanke nâher gêt
ein knappe, der truog ein swert:
20 des palc was tûsent marke wert,
sîn gehilze was ein rubîn,
ouch môhte wol diu klinge sîn
grôzer wunder urhap.
der wirt ez sîme gaste gap.
25 der sprach 'hêrre, ich prâhtz in nôt
in maneger stat, ê daz mich got
ame lîbe hât geletzet.
nu sît dermit ergetzet,
ob man iwer hie niht wol enpflege.
ir mugetz wol fûeren alle wege:

Swenne ir geprûevet sînen art,
ir sît gein strîte dermite bewart.'
ôwê daz er niht vrâgte dô!
des pin ich fûr in noch unvrô.
wan do erz enpfîenc in sîne hant,
dô was er vrâgens mit ermant.
och riwet mich sîn sîezer wirt,
den ungenande niht verbirt,
des im von vrâgn nu wære rât.

-TURN OVER-

-PAGE TWO-

2. To what extent, if at all, may Gahmuret's behaviour be described as rational?
3. 'In *Parzival* courtly culture is a truly global phenomenon.' Discuss.
4. Discuss the theme of Parzival's beauty.
5. 'As soon as Parzival becomes Grail king, he ceases to interest Wolfram.' Discuss this view of the end of *Parzival*.
6. 'To look for consistency in the characterization of Gawain is to misunderstand the significance of this figure in Wolfram's *Parzival*.' Discuss.
7. 'Collective interests outweigh those of individuals at the Arthurian court.' Discuss.
8. 'The narrative world of *Parzival* is almost entirely bereft of clerical culture.' Discuss.
9. Discuss the narrator's habit of defending the indefensible in Wolfram's *Parzival*.
10. 'There is little or no nobility in death in Wolfram's *Parzival*.' Discuss.

-END OF PAPER-