

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

M.A.

Hebrew G2: Jews of the Soviet Union

COURSE CODE : HEBRG002

DATE : 11-MAY-05

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

HEBR G002: HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

Attempt THREE of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. What, in your opinion, are the five most important books published in English about the Jews in the Soviet Union in the last ten years?
2. Consider whether Marxism or Zionism was the more significant Jewish political movement in the pre-revolutionary Russian Empire?
3. Lenin famously declared that, if the Jews were a nation, it was one "whose language was jargon, and whose homeland was the Pale of Settlement." What were the implications of this statement for Soviet policy towards the Jews?
4. For the period between 1917 and 1939, discuss the accuracy of the claim that the Bolshevik Revolution was "good for the Jew and bad for the Jews."
5. What was the impact of Communism in the Soviet Union on the Jewish political parties?
6. Choose ANY Soviet Jewish artist, such as Babel or Chagall, and assess the extent to which his/her art was "Jewish."
7. What was the impact on Soviet Jews of the First Five Year Plan and the collectivization of agriculture?
8. Discuss the extent to which there was a Jewish angle to the Stalinist Purges of the 1930s.
9. The leadership of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee were executed in 1952 for doing what they had been ordered to do in 1942. Explain.
10. How did the Soviet leadership make the Holocaust of Soviet Jewry "disappear?"
11. Assess the claim that the intense Antisemitism that characterised late Stalinism was a response to the creation of the state of Israel.

TURN OVER

HEBR G002

12. Soviet ideologues after 1967 claimed that they were "Anti-Zionist" rather than "Antisemitic." Assess the extent to which this was a credible claim.
13. What were the origins of the Jewish national movement in USSR in the period after 1953?
14. In retrospect, why did the Soviet decision to allow limited out-migration of Soviet Jews after 1970 prove such a disastrous political mistake?
15. "The leaders of the antisemitic *Pamiat'* movement were skilled at creating scandals, but hopeless at mobilising political support for their movement." Discuss, agreeing or disagreeing.

END OF PAPER