

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

M. A.

Hebrew G6: The History of the Jews in Poland

COURSE CODE : **HEBRG006**

DATE : **13-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
(University College London)

MA Degree in Hebrew and Jewish Studies 2002

HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN POLAND

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

1. The Jewish community of pre-partition Poland can be considered a 'privileged' social estate. Explain the significance of the category 'privileged' in the context of the pre-modern Polish Commonwealth.
2. Discuss the various evaluations in the historiography of the impact upon the Jews of the Cossack uprising led by Bogdan Chmielnicki in 1648.
3. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was described by one contemporary as 'Heaven for the Nobility, Purgatory for the Townsmen, Hell for the Peasantry, and Paradise for Jews'. How accurate is this characterisation in general, and for the Jews in particular? Explain your answer.
4. Consider the strength of Jewish messianism in Poland from 1648 to 1795.
5. Assess the significance of the creation and demise of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw for Polish Jews.
6. Compare and contrast the legal position of the Jews in the Pale of Settlement and in the Kingdom of Poland within the Russian Empire between 1815 and 1905.
7. How did the rise of National Democracy transform Polish attitudes towards the Jews on the eve of The Great War?
8. Assess the impact of The Great War on East European Jewry.
9. How successfully did the Polish-Jewish leadership adapt to the political realities of the Polish Republic between 1919 and 1935?
10. To what extent was Polish Jewry able to combat Antisemitism in Poland in the 1930s? Indicate what groups were most successful in this regard.
11. What is the significance of the pogrom at Jedwabne for the history of the Holocaust in Poland?

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12. To what extent is the case of Communist Poland an example of the phenomenon of 'Antisemitism without Jews?'
13. Why has the memorial site at Auschwitz proven to be such a contentious issue in contemporary Polish-Jewish relations?

END OF PAPER