

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

M.A.

Hebrew G37: Women in Jewish Tradition

COURSE CODE : HEBRG037

DATE : 06-MAY-05

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

HEBR GO37: Women in the Jewish Tradition

Answer THREE questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Consider the impact on Jewish Studies of the introduction of Gender as an analytical category.
2. Discuss the role of women in the Biblical narrative as guardians of the "correct" male genealogical line.
3. Comment on the portrayal of the ideal woman as portrayed in Proverbs 31.
4. To what extent should Lilith be considered "Jewish"?
5. Why is magic in the Jewish tradition so often connected with women?
6. Account for the rabbinic construction of the female body.
7. In what sense, and to what extent, may the ascetic life be said to be gendered in the Jewish tradition?
8. Explore the claim that the kabbalistic concept of the female aspect of the godhead may have emerged in response to the cult of the Virgin Mary in medieval Christianity.
9. Demonstrate the impact of host societies, both Christian and Muslim, on the position of women in medieval Jewry.
10. Account for the over-representation of women in the cases investigated by the Spanish Inquisition.
11. Evaluate the memoirs of Glickl of Hameln as a source of information about the attitudes and role of women in early modern Ashkenaz.
12. Analyse the tradition of the Maid of Ludmir in the context of the position of women in Hasidic society in the 18th-19th centuries./
13. What roles, if any, did women play in the Jewish Enlightenment movement, the *Haskalah*, in the 19th century?
14. "Orthodox women writers subvert the law within its own terms." Discuss this statement with appropriate illustrations.
15. How might Jewish women of the Orthodox tradition today justify their study of Torah despite the explicit talmudic warnings against it?

END OF PAPER