

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

Hebrew & Jew. Studs. C39: History of the Jews in Poland

COURSE CODE : **HEBRC039**

UNIT VALUE : **1.00**

DATE : **13-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
(University College London)

BA Degree 2002

**HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES C39: HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN
POLAND**

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

1. Discuss the following proposition: 'The prosperity and creativity of the Jews of Poland were directly linked to the prosperity and political stability of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the period before 1772.'
2. For Ukrainians, Bogdan Chmielnicki was 'Bog-dan' (i.e., a gift from God). Jews prayed 'that his name be blotted out'. Why was there such a contrast in these characterisations?
3. Shimon Dubnow characterised the late medieval and early modern period in Poland as a 'golden age' for the Jews. Assess the accuracy of Dubnow's claim up to the end of the 17th century.
4. To what extent was there a crisis in Jewish communal institutions in the period immediately before the first partition of Poland?
5. The period between 1772 and 1793 was marked by Polish efforts to reform the state in order to resist Poland's predatory neighbours. What was the impact of this reform movement on Polish Jewry?
6. Compare and contrast the treatment of the Jews in the period 1772-1815 in any TWO of the three partitioning powers, Russia, Austria or Prussia.
7. Trace and explain the changes in Polish attitudes towards the Jews between 1861 and 1914.
8. Assess the impact of The Great War on East European Jewry.

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9. Compare and contrast the attitudes towards the Jews in independent Poland of Joseph Pilsudski and Roman Dmowski.
10. Discuss the accuracy of the statement that 'after Nazi Germany, inter-war Poland was the most antisemitic state in Europe. All aspects of Polish life were permeated with Antisemitism.'
11. What was the significance, if any, of pre-war Polish Antisemitism for the development and implementation of Nazi treatment of the Jews in occupied Poland?
12. What role did Antisemitism play in the internal politics of Communist Poland between 1945 and 1967?
13. What is the significance of Jan Gross' book Neighbors for contemporary Polish-Jewish relations?

END OF PAPER