

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

Hebrew & Jew. Studs. C87: The Sumerians

COURSE CODE : **HEBRC087**

UNIT VALUE : **1.00**

DATE : **07-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

02-C0678-3-30

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TURN OVER

Answer FOUR of the following questions. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

1. One theme which repeatedly appears in Sumerian sources could be called 'a tale of two cities'. Discuss relations between ONE of the pairs of cities below:
 - a. Uruk and Aratta
 - b. Lagash and Umma
 - c. Ebla and Mari
2. Discuss the importance of the school curriculum in the spread of Sumerian culture throughout Mesopotamia and beyond.
3. Discuss the view that 'Sumerian cosmology was not concerned with whether the earth was flat, or whether the sun and moon orbited the earth, but only where the spirits of the dead resided after death'.
4. Discuss the statement that 'Sumerian society was characterised by ethnic conflict', e.g. Sumerians vs. Semites, Sumerians vs. Amorites, etc.
5. What information do Sumerian laws, such as laws governing marriage and divorce, provide about the status of women in Sumerian society?
6. Discuss the role of official correspondence in the functioning of the state bureaucracy in the Ur III period.
7. Discuss the function of collections of Sumerian proverbs as a means of recording 'secular' knowledge.
8. Discuss the proposition that 'anthropomorphism represented a male view of gods, while Inanna's role in the pantheon reflected female stereotypes in society.'
9. Discuss the use of magic as a way of reducing the Sumerian's fears of both gods and demons.
10. Discuss the cultural impact which Sargon's Dynasty had upon Mesopotamian society in the third millennium.

END OF PAPER