

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

Hebrew & Jew. Studs. C87: The Sumerians

COURSE CODE : HEBRC087

UNIT VALUE : 1.00

DATE : 18-MAY-04

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

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

1. Defend or reject the idea that Mesopotamia was a monolithic society in which Sumerians and Semites may have differed from each other in terms of language, but otherwise shared the same culture.
2. How are the Sumerian notions of disease and death reflected in Sumerian incantation literature?
3. Discuss the proposition that the sources for Sargon and Naram-Sin are more literary than historical.
4. 'The Sumerian King List is the closest thing we have to ancient historiography.' Do you agree?
5. Defend or reject the biblical view that a pantheon, such as in Mesopotamia, represented a primitive form of religion in which people worshipped man-made statues of gods.
6. Could Sumerian civilisation have developed as it did without the invention of writing? Explain your answer.
7. The archives of the city of Ebla in Syria show that Sumerian culture did not dominate the Near East of its era. Defend or reject.
8. Discuss the idea that Sumerian cosmology was not concerned with whether the sun and moon orbited the earth, but rather with the contrast between the alluvial plain and the neighbouring mountains.
9. What information do Sumerian laws and legal documents governing marriage and divorce provide about the status of women in Sumerian society?
10. 'Inanna was no less of a role model for Sumerian women than male gods were role models for Sumerian men.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER