

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

Italian X111: Modern Authors II

COURSE CODE : ITALX111

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 11-MAY-06

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

ITALX111

Answer TWO questions, ONE from each section.

Section A

1. Examine the representation of gender and the role of gender stereotypes in Calvino's fiction.
2. Italo Calvino once claimed that for him the main thing in a narrative is not the explanation of an extraordinary event, but "the pattern, the symmetry, the network of images deposited around it, as in the formation of a crystal." Examine the meaning of this statement in relation to at least TWO of Calvino's works.
3. Explain Calvino's use of scientific texts in *Cosmicomiche*.
4. According to Eugenio Bolongaro, the full meaning of Calvino's fiction after the 1950s can only be understood if we remember the struggles that shaped him as a young writer and intellectual. To what extent do you agree with this view?

Section B

5. Examine Levi's reflections on language and communication in *Se questo è un uomo* and *I sommersi e i salvati*.
6. Analyse the representation of at least two characters encountered by the narrator of *Se questo è un uomo* and explain their significance to Levi's book.
7. In your opinion, is it possible to read *Il sistema periodico* as a humorous novel?
8. "Ibergekumene tsores iz gut tsu dertseyln" ("Past sorrows are pleasant to tell"). Explain the meaning of this epigraph to *Il sistema periodico*.

END OF PAPER