

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

Italian X210: The Trecento: Petrarch and Boccaccio

COURSE CODE : **ITALX210**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **29-APR-02**

TIME : **14.30**

TIME ALLOWED : **2 hours**

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TURN OVER

Answer TWO questions, one from each section. **Answer each question in a separate book.**

Section A

1. The *Decameron* has been described as ‘il poema dell’intelligenza’. How does Boccaccio exemplify ‘intelligenza’ in the *novelle* you have read?
2. How far do Boccaccio’s *novelle* dealing with the clergy show a desire to ridicule the Church and its religious practices?
3. What connections, if any, are there between the first *novella* (Ser Ciappelletto) and the last one (Griselda)?
4. What would be lost if the *Decameron* had neither an introduction nor a description of the plague of 1348?

Section B

Answer this question in a separate book

5. Consider the theme EITHER of time OR of distance in the *Canzoniere*.
6. Give an account of the principal features of Petrarch’s poetic style in the *Canzoniere*.
7. Consider the function EITHER of the first poem (*Voi ch’ascoltate in rime sparse il suono*) OR of the last poem (*Vergine bella, che di sol vestita*) of the *Canzoniere* as, respectively, a prelude and an epilogue to the collection as a whole.
8. Write a critical appreciation - paying careful attention to matters both of substance and of style - of the following sonnet:

Io son sì stanco sotto ’l fascio antico
 de le mie colpe et de l’usanza ria
 ch’i’ temo forte di mancar tra via,
 et di cader in man del mio nemico. 4

Ben venne a dilivarmi un grande amico
 per somma et ineffabil cortesia;
 poi volò fuor de la veduta mia,
 sì ch’a mirarlo indarno m’affatico. 8

Ma la sua voce anchor qua giù rimbomba:
 O voi che travagliate, ecco ’l camino;
 venite a me, se ’l passo altri non serra. 11

Qual gratia, qual amore, o qual destino
 mi darà penne in guisa di colomba,
 ch’i’ mi riposi, et levimi da terra? 14

(*Canzoniere*, 81)

END OF PAPER