

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

Italian X210: The Trecento: Petrarch and Boccaccio

COURSE CODE : ITALX210

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 12-MAY-06

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section A

1. Laura: a Beatrice or a Medusa in the *Canzoniere*?
2. Petrarch's poetry has been described as that of moral and emotional conflict. How far would you agree?
3. Consider the merits of the sonnet as a vehicle for Petrarch's leading preoccupations in the *Canzoniere*.
4. Write an appreciation of the following sonnet (*Canz.* 61), paying close attention to matters both of substance and of style.

Benedetto sia 'l giorno, et 'l mese, et l'anno,
et la stagione, e 'l tempo, et l'ora, e 'l punto,
e 'l bel paese, e 'l loco ov' io fui giunto
da' duo begli occhi che legato m'anno;

et benedetto il primo dolce affanno
ch' i' ebbi ad esser con Amor congiunto,
et l'arco, et le saette ond' i' fui punto,
et le piaghe che 'nfin al cor mi vanno.

Benedette le voci tante ch' io
chiamando il nome de mia donna ò sparte,
e i sospiri, et le lagrime, e 'l desio;

et benedette sian tutte le carte
ov' io fama l'acquisto, e 'l pensier mio,
ch' è sol di lei, sí ch'altra non v' à parte.

Section B

5. Humour in the *Decameron*, it has been said, is the reverse side of violence and disorder. Discuss.
6. Consider the significance of Boccaccio's choice of 'prencipe Galeotto' as the subtitle of the *Decameron*.

TURN OVER

7. To what extent is Boccaccio's respect for the Christian religion compatible with the attacks on the clergy in many novelle of the *Decameron*? Illustrate your answer with respect to at least THREE novelle.

8. Discuss Boccaccio's treatment of exemplary – and, if you wish, anti-exemplary – women in the *Decameron*.

END OF PAPER