

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

Scand. Studs. SC3730: Sources For The Viking Age I

COURSE CODE : **SCAN3730**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **16-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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TURN OVER

Answer THREE of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks. A candidate may not cover the same ground as in an assessed or extended essay. Avoid any duplication of material within this paper.

1. Give some account of the Norse discovery of America with reference to the written sources you have read.
2. Describe the manner in which the Vikings conducted warfare by land and by sea.
3. Consider the status of the poem *Hávamál* as a source for the Viking Age and review the information it can give us as such.
4. EITHER: (a) Assess the value of Snorri Sturluson's *Edda* as a source for myths.

OR: (b) Discuss the figure of Loki in Norse mythology.
5. EITHER: (a) What can be learnt from the verses called *Vikingarvisur* about the early career of Óláfr inn helgi Haraldsson?

OR: (b) What advantages and what disadvantages does skaldic poetry have as a source for the history of the Viking Age?
6. 'Heimskringla can only be used as a source for Viking-Age conditions with the utmost circumspection.' How far can you agree with this statement?
7. EITHER: (a) Assess the evidence of runic inscriptions for Viking activity eastwards.

OR: (b) What can be learnt from runic inscriptions about the spread of Christianity in Sweden?

OR: (c) What value is *Yngvars saga víðfjara* to the student of the Viking Age?
8. Write notes on THREE of the following: walrus-ivory; the god Perun; assembly-places in Iceland; Sleipnir; the poem *Rígsþula*; the position of illegitimate children in early Scandinavian society; the Bayeux tapestry; Haraldr harðráði Sigurðsson; the Skuldelev ships; Vestribyggð in Greenland; the rune-stone on Frösön (Jämtland); Kaupang (Vestfold).