

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

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

COURSE CODE : **SCAN3730**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **13-MAY-04**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 Hours**

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. Describe the manner in which the Vikings conducted warfare by land and by sea.
2. EITHER: (a) Discuss the god Thor and his place in the Norse pantheon.
OR: (b) What do we learn about the god Odin from the poem *Hávamál* ?
3. Give some account of Norse landings on the North American continent with reference to the written sources you have read.
4. EITHER: (a) What can be learnt from the so-called *Vikingarvísur* about the early career of Óláfr helgi Haraldsson?
OR: (b) What are the advantages and disadvantages of skaldic poetry as a source for Viking-Age history?
5. Assess the importance of Ari Þorgilsson's *Íslendingabók* as a source for the conversion of Iceland.
6. EITHER: (a) What can be learnt from Swedish and Icelandic sources about Ingvar's expedition to the east?
OR: (b) What can we learn from runic inscriptions about the expeditions of Swedish Vikings?
7. 'We cannot dismiss them as sources for the history of Norway in the ninth and early tenth centuries.' Consider this view of Snorri's *Haralds saga hárfagra* and *Hákonar saga góða*.
8. Give a critical account of the main sources for Norse mythology.
9. Write notes on THREE of the following: the Norse in Ireland; the goddess Freyja; *Fagrskinna*; the cult of St Óláfr in the British Isles; the Battle of Hafsfjorden; Sleipnir; Norse skates; Viking-Age Lejre; St Ansgar; the picture on the carved stone from Hunnestad, Skåne; *ármaðr*; Knut the Great.