

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:–

*B.A.*

**Spanish 4114: Christian, Muslim and Jewish Themes in the work of Jorge Luis Borges**

**COURSE CODE : SPAN4114**

**UNIT VALUE : 1.00**

**DATE : 19–MAY–06**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

**SPANISH S4114: Christian, Muslim and Jewish Themes in the work of Jorge Luis Borges**

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Essays may be written in either Spanish or English, but no extra credit will be given for answers in Spanish.*

*Candidates should not base more than ONE answer on a particular work.*

*Candidates may refer to a text or texts used in their course work essays; however, they should not base their answers on a topic discussed extensively in their essays.*

1. Examine Borges's handling of moral-philosophical themes in **AT LEAST THREE** of the works (whether in prose or verse) studied in this course.
2. Discuss the interplay between memory and forgetfulness in **AT LEAST THREE** of the works studied in this course.
3. The term 'heresiarch' features prominently in Borges. Discuss its function in **AT LEAST THREE** works.
4. 'Yo creí, durante años, haberme criado en un suburbio de Buenos Aires. Lo cierto es que me crié en un jardín, detrás de una verja con lanzas, y en una biblioteca de ilimitados libros ingleses.' Examine the implications of this statement for Borges's conception of literature and the role of the writer.
5. 'If Borges invokes a great number of cultural references it is not only as the result of "an incurable shyness" but also, which is quite the opposite, the manifestation of a spirit of daring and subversiveness against the supposed authority of the original source.' Discuss with reference to **AT LEAST THREE** of the works studied in this course.
6. 'Los católicos argentinos creen en un mundo ultraterreno, pero he notado que no se interesan en él. Conmigo ocurre lo contrario; me interesa y no creo' (J. L. Borges). Discuss.
7. 'Nos interesa el universo y en el universo el lugar de Israel es algo que nadie puede negar' (J. L. Borges). Examine the implications of this statement in **AT LEAST THREE** of the works studied in this course.
8. "'Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius" is concerned with the deeply-rooted human desire to find in the world some appearance of order and design, and thereby some hope of finality.' Does this statement do justice to the themes discussed in this course?

**TURN OVER**

**S4114:**

9. 'Tiendo a estimar las ideas filosóficas o religiosas por su valor estético y aun por lo que encierran de singular y de maravilloso. Esto es, quizá, indicio de un escepticismo esencial.' Analyse Borges's scepticism in AT LEAST THREE of the works studied in this course.
10. 'Hace diez años bastaba cualquier simetría con apariencia de orden – el materialismo dialéctico, el antisemitismo, el nazismo – para embelesar a los hombres.' Examine the implications of this statement for an understanding of AT LEAST THREE of the works studied in this course.
11. 'El tiempo es un problema para nosotros, un tembloroso y exigente problema, acaso el más vital de la metafísica; la eternidad, un juego o una fatigada esperanza.' Analyse the ways in which Borges dramatizes his statement in AT LEAST THREE of the works studied in this course.
12. 'Me repetía que él era Dante, que yo era Beatrice y que habría de liberarlo del infierno' (Estela Canto). Discuss with reference to Borges's treatment of the theme of love in AT LEAST THREE of the works studied in this course.
13. 'The paradox of mystical or supernatural experience in Borges's work consists in its self-denial.' Discuss.
14. 'Borges mocks the idea of good and evil inherent in religious faith.' Does this statement do justice to the themes explored in this course?

**END OF PAPER**