

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

Spanish 4115: Christian, Muslim and Jewish Themes in the work of Jorge Luis Borges

COURSE CODE : SPAN4115

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 06-MAY-05

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours

SPANISH S509B/ 4115: Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Themes in the Work of Jorge Luis Borges

Candidates should answer **TWO** 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 should not normally base their answers on any text or texts used extensively in their course work essays.

1. 'By reacting forcefully to the challenges of the Holocaust, Borges engaged the problems of representation in writing about the catastrophe.' Discuss with reference to at least **TWO** of the texts studied in this course.

2. 'Ser nazi (jugar a la barbarie enérgica, jugar a ser un viking, un tártaro, un conquistador del siglo XVI, un gaucho, un piel roja) es, a la larga, una imposibilidad mental y moral.' Examine the way in which Borges dramatises this statement in **ONE** of the texts studied.

3. Explore the ways in which Borges incorporates elements of the Judeo-Christian tradition in his own writing.

4. 'To take Borges's fiction too solemnly can be misleading because we may miss the intense sarcasm that ignites it from within.' Discuss with reference to at least **ONE** of the texts studied in this course.

5. 'Creo que nuestra tradición es toda la cultura occidental, y creo también que tenemos derecho a esta tradición. Podemos manejar todos los temas europeos, manejarlos sin supersticiones, con una irreverencia que puede tener, y ya tiene, consecuencias afortunadas.' Discuss the implications of this statement in at least **THREE** of the texts studied in this course.

6. 'En tiempos de auge la conjetura de que la existencia del hombre es una cantidad constante, invariable, puede entristecer o irritar: en tiempos que declinan (como éstos), es la promesa de que ningún oprobio, ninguna calamidad, ningún dictador podrá empobrecernos.' Discuss the implications of this statement with reference to Borges's ethical stance in the 1940s.

END OF PAPER