

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

B.A.

Spanish S505A: Realism and Magical Realism in Twentieth Century Spanish–American Fiction

COURSE CODE : SPAN505A

UNIT VALUE : 1.00

DATE : 21–MAY–04

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

**SPANISH S505A Realism and Magical Realism in 20th-Century Spanish
American Fiction**

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 should not base their answers on any text or texts used extensively in their course-work essays.

1. Examine the portrayal of the human condition in Rivera's *La vorágine*.
2. 'Mapiripana's conquest of the missionary in *La vorágine* metaphorically signals the triumph of nature over human adversaries and foreshadows Cova's ultimate destiny.' Discuss.
3. 'A pesar del dualismo maniqueo, una profunda ambivalencia atraviesa la novela.' Discuss with reference to Gallegos' *Doña Bárbara*.
4. 'No todo era malo y hostil en la llanura, tierra irredenta donde una gente buena ama, sufre y espera.' Discuss with reference to *Doña Bárbara*.
5. Carlos Fuentes has summarized Vargas Llosa's *La casa verde* as 'a pilgrimage from convent to brothel'. Discuss.
6. 'No he querido mostrar a mis personajes como simples resultantes de fuerzas ajenas.' Discuss the extent to which this statement is applicable to *La casa verde*.
7. Discuss Carpentier's critique of advanced industrial civilization in *Los pasos perdidos*.
8. 'Carpentier distances himself from "lo real maravilloso" as he distances himself from the narrator and from the Western cultural complex.' Discuss.
9. Analyse Rulfo's critique of the Mexican semi-feudal social system as portrayed in *Pedro Páramo*.
10. Examine Rulfo's use of imagery and symbolism in relation to the human condition in at least **THREE** characters in *Pedro Páramo*.
11. Discuss García Márquez's interpretation of history as portrayed in *Cien años de soledad*.
12. 'When García Márquez narrates the story of the Buendía family from a mythical perspective he is situating his voice at the precise confluence of the traditions of popular culture and high culture'. Discuss.

END OF PAPER