

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B. A.

Spanish S525A: Women's Writing in Latin America

COURSE CODE : SPAN525A

UNIT VALUE : 1.00

DATE : 20-MAY-02

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 hours

02-C1342-3-30

© 2002 *University of London*

TURN OVER

SPANISH S525A Women's Writing in Latin America

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. EITHER a) Discuss the ways in which preoccupations with race and gender intersect in *Sab*.

OR b) To what extent can *Sab* be considered a subversive novel?

2. EITHER a) Assess the presentation of gender in *Las memorias de Mamá Blanca*.

OR b) To what extent can *Las memorias de Mamá Blanca* be considered an innovative work of fiction?

3. EITHER a) Bombal has been accused of perpetuating patriarchal constructions of femininity. To what extent do you agree with this contention.

OR b) Examine the presentation of the family in Bombal's writings. You should refer to the TWO texts studied in this course.

4. EITHER a) Analyse the treatment of 'otherness' in *Balún Canán*.

OR b) Explore Castellanos' life-long concern with oppression in *Balún Canán*.

5. EITHER a) Examine Poniatowska's presentation of Mexican history and society in *Hasta no verte, Jesús mío*. In what ways does her story differ from more official versions?

OR b) 'My interest in writing is simply to give a voice to those who don't have one.' Examine Poniatowska's use of documents and *testimonio* to deal with this concern.

TURN OVER

S525A

6. EITHER a) 'The most marked characteristic of Luisa Valenzuela's fiction is a pushing against censorship of all kinds.' (L.Craig). To what extent is this statement applicable to *Cambio de armas*? (You should answer with reference to TWO or MORE stories).

OR b) 'As always in Valenzuela ambiguities prevail' (D.Shaw). Examine Valenzuela's treatment of sexuality in *Cambio de armas* in the light of this statement. (You should answer with reference to TWO or MORE stories).

7. EITHER a) Analyse Vega's use of humour to expose the contradictions of traditional Puerto Rican values.

OR b) Examine the role of multi-lingualism in Vegas' fiction.

8. EITHER a) 'The aggressive nature of her production, with its cultivation of "bad taste" disturbs the reader' (M. Maiz Peña). Discuss Eltit's *El cuarto mundo* in the light of this statement.

OR b) Discuss the ways in which the twin characters of *El cuarto mundo* challenge our assumptions of person, personality and desire as given in bourgeois society and assess the effect of Eltit's experimental writing.

9. Explore how a concern with the 'margins of society' is reflected in the works of ANY TWO authors studied in the course.

END OF PAPER