UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualifications:-

B.Sc.   *M.Sci.*

Mathematics C382: History Of Mathematics

COURSE CODE   : **MATHC382**

UNIT VALUE   : **0.50**

DATE   : **02–MAY–06**

TIME   : **14.30**

TIME ALLOWED   : **2 Hours**

TURN OVER

All questions may be attempted but only marks obtained on the best **four** *solutions will count. The use of an electronic calculator is* **not** *permitted in this examination.*

1. What were the successes and failures of Egyptian and Babylonian arithmetical methods?

2. Why were the three classical problems important in the development of Greek mathematics? What mathematical discoveries did they inspire?

3. Describe the developments in the solution of polynomial equations during the sixteenth century?

4. How true is it to say, considering the work of their predecessors in the seventeenth century, that Newton and Leibniz invented the calculus?

5. Write an essay on ONE of the following topics:

   a) What is the importance of the parallel postulate in the history of mathematics?

   b) How was the mathematics of Greek antiquity transmitted to the Latin West?

   c) Discuss the view that the only important mathematics is the mathematics we teach today.