

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualifications:–

B.A. B.Sc. B.Sc. (Intercal)

Hist. of Medic. C21: Madness and Society

COURSE CODE : HMEDC021

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 28-APR-05

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

THREE HOURS

Please answer ANY THREE questions

1. 'At the heart of the European witch-hunts from c 1450, whatever the complexities and local differences in terms of the trials themselves, lay one fundamental fear: that of women, both old and young, in league with forces outside male control'. Debate this proposition.
2. How might one argue that the history of suicide and attitudes towards it from roughly 1500 to 1750 shows that the harshest judgements came not from the clergy or the lay community but the political state and its financial needs?
3. If you were writing a short, potted history of psychiatric medicine, when would you propose that a properly recognisable medical specialism, worthy of that name, first started to appear?
4. Using the history of a patient (or patients) from ANY part of the course, argue with the proposal that while the doctor's 'expert' diagnosis might in fact have involved guesswork, his patient(s) was - or were - clearly insane from any layman's point of view.
5. Not least with regard to the hysteria diagnosis, but including such things as rates of asylum admission and more general nervous exhaustion, might not the historian of psychiatry for the period 1850 -1914 see those years as full of 'male maladies' quite as much as 'female maladies'?
6. Discuss the claim that the story of criminal insanity pleas from the late eighteenth century onwards and not least in the McNaghten case was one of confusion and controversy.
7. From the time of Pinel and the Tukes onwards, why was the asylum deemed as an essential component in the treatment of the mentally disturbed?
8. Describe the aims of European psychiatrists such as Richard von Krafft-Ebing and their sexological writings in the late nineteenth century.
9. Argue with the proposition that Kraepelin's work on dementia praecox was carefully constructed and meticulously researched and that later attempts by Bleuler and others to improve or revise it nonetheless left Kraepelin's disease model intact.

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10. Outline the main characteristics of both Freud's ideas on the unconscious, dreams, the neuroses and infantile sexuality AND the methods by which he thought the patient and the analyst could bring these to the surface.
11. Explore the (at first sight) puzzling fact that two of the most famous modern anti-psychiatrists – R.D. Laing and Thomas Szasz – were both trained and practicing psychiatrists.
12. This course is entitled 'madness and society'. Using examples from any part of it, as well as from your own reading, show where you think various forms of medicalised theories and control of the 'mad' were most clearly used to disguise and neutralise what were in fact forms of social protest.

END OF PAPER