

**HMED C20: Medicine, Disease & Society from Antiquity to the Renaissance
EXAM 2004**

THREE HOURS

Answer Four questions only. At least one question must be taken from each Section.

Section A

1. 'To writers in the Hippocratic Corpus causation is not a major interest in itself but merely a simple way of linking symptoms and treatment.' Discuss.
2. Was there a medical profession in antiquity ?
3. 'A great dissector, with an inadequate understanding of the workings of the body'. To what extent can this Galenic view of Erasistratus be accepted today ?
4. 'Doctors in the Greco-Roman world were not interested in medical ethics as the term is now understood, but only in effective practice.' Discuss.
5. What problems are faced by a modern historian in evaluating either Soranus' Gynaecology or the Medical Questions of Rufus of Ephesus.
6. Was Galen a typical Roman doctor ?

Section B

7. 'A distinction between caring and curing is meaningless in the context of the early hospital.'
Discuss with reference to the period 100 B.C.-1000 A.D.
8. What major features distinguish medicine in England in the period 1200-1500 from that in Italy ?
9. 'The novelty of Vesalius' De humani corporis fabrica lies less in its record of discovery than in its introduction of the visual into anatomical writings'. Do you agree with this assessment ?
10. 'Paracelsus challenged his contemporaries through his religious outlook and epistemology, not through his novel therapeutics.' Do you agree ?
11. How well have historians succeeded in placing Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood in context ?
12. Compare and contrast the impact of translations from the Greek into Syriac and Arabic between 500 and 900 A.D. with that of similar translations into Latin between 1490 and 1550 A.D.

END OF PAPER