

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2018
Third Year Fifth Semester
ENGLISH (HONOURS)
Introduction to the Renaissance

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. What was the contribution of the *dictatores* to the revival of classical studies in Europe?
2. 'We may in the end judge that Petrarch was not entirely an innovator, but that he depended upon the efforts of earlier generations to prepare the ground for the kind of scholarship at which he excelled, and that he was therefore part of a continuing tradition'. Do you agree? Discuss.
3. Would it be accurate to think of the *Decameron* as a response to the experience of the plague? Give reasons.
- 4a. 'The humanist programme was at bottom a pedagogic one.' Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the texts that you have studied.

OR

- 4b. 'The humanist movement did not just result in the recovery of classical texts, but more importantly, perhaps, promoted a new sense of *textuality*.' Consider the implications of this statement.
5. 'Man's lack of an image (or fixed identity) is for Pico both a prerogative and a liability.' Discuss with reference to the section of the *Oration* that you have read.
6. Erasmus wrote in a letter: "As long as we live, we are devoted to self-improvement, and we shall not cease to make our writings more polished and more complete until we cease to breathe". Comment on the achievement of the *Adages* in the light of this comment.
7. Write a note on any one:
 - a) The rediscovery of linear perspective in the Renaissance
 - b) Representing death in Renaissance art
 - c) Renaissance landscapes
8. How can we assess the contribution of women artists to the development of Renaissance art? You may restrict your answer to a discussion of any two artists if you so wish.
8. What are the main characteristics of the Baroque style? Discuss.
9. Describe the four kinds of Idols that Bacon talks of. Why is the identification and description of the Idols important for Bacon's scientific method?
10. "[T]he pursuit of astrology, alchemy, and magic in the Renaissance encouraged astronomical observation, scientific experiment, and new theories of nature". How far can this view be supported? Discuss.
11. Did women have a Renaissance? How would you answer this question?