

MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part II

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**Specimen paper from Tripos 2018**

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Paper Sp. 12

LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE

Answer **three** questions, **at least one** from each section.

Candidates for this paper may **not** draw substantially on material from their dissertations or material which they have used or intend to use in another scheduled paper. Candidates may **not** draw substantially on the same material in more than one question on the same paper.

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 Page Answer Book x 1*

*Rough work pad*

*Tags*

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

*None*

SECTION A

**Colonial Culture**

1 Urban Cultures

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘Language and urbanism are vehicles of social control in colonial America: alphabetic writing and regular grid patterns silence indigenous cultures.’

Or ‘The poetry of Pre-Hispanic and early colonial America reflects imperialist projections in its generic and discursive voracity.’

Or ‘La ciudad colonial es una matriz de contradicciones que difícilmente se subsumen en un orden político y poético.’

2 Rebels and Wanderers

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘Colonial Latin American literature emerges from the conjunction of historical narrative and juridical documentation.’

Or ‘Despite momentarily destabilizing the colonial categories of conquistador/conquistado, captivity narratives ultimately conform to a salvific, expansionist teleology.’

Or ‘Las relaciones de exploración y rebelión otorgan una importante clave al “yo”, esto es, al sujeto que ve, experimenta y narrativiza.’

SECTION B

**Post-Independence Latin American Culture**

3 Modernismo

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘Sabem que nadie se encuentra a sí mismo si antes no abandona el lugar natal.’

Or ‘En el modernismo, la apertura hacia la innovación o la forma rara vez estuvo disociada de una intensidad espiritual o vivencial.’

4 Avant garde and mid twentieth century poetry

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘Aesthetic, formal and semantic disruption open the way to a demanding new creative and vital order.’

Or ‘The encounter between the physical world of bodies or cities or violence and the desire for meaning, liberation and oneness informs the fabric of their poetry.’

5 The City and the Countryside

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘En la narrativa mexicana, donde el mundo rural, atávico, cerrado y derrotado reviste las formas de la modernidad literaria, el lector urbano asiste fascinado a un espectáculo violento y bárbaro, radicalmente ajeno.’

Or ‘These texts articulate fundamental tensions between authority and freedom, modernization and resistance, nation and individual, nature and society.’ *Gauchesca* and *novela de la tierra*

## 6 Narrative and Experiments in Form

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘La novela se libera del realismo representacional para habitar su propia piel e interrogar la realidad desde su propia complejidad y perplejidad.’

Or ‘A veces es difícil determinar si la apabullante complejidad estructural o el juego de voces y géneros en estas novelas disuelven cualquier discurso crítico o lo vuelven más eficaz.’

Or ‘Myth, circular time and archaic logic combine fruitfully with hard historical time and social reality in these novels.’

## 7 Short Story

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more writers.’

Either ‘El cuento es a la novela lo que la caricatura es a la pintura, el cine (orden abierto) a fotografía (orden cerrado que provoca una apertura), un continente a una isla.’

Or ‘The short story inhabits the *inbetween*: between order, self, rationality, certainty and the absurd, the other, meaninglessness or madness.’

## 8 Articulations of Identity

‘Discuss with reference to two or more writers.’

Either. ‘The dramas of gender and/or racial identity are played out in body and language.’

Or ‘Poetry lends itself better than prose to questioning and rupturing patriarchal and Eurocentric discourse.’

## 9 Visualizing America

‘Discuss one of the following with reference to two or more artists.’

Either ‘Evitan el enfoque realista o racionalista del arte centrado en la representación del mundo externo. Ofrecen una visualización alterna a través de la ciencia, la mitología, el inconsciente y la fantasía.’

Or ‘Their representational strategies calibrate visual identities through a spectrum of visibility based on a radical questioning of the role of art, power and popular agency.’

**END OF PAPER**