MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part IB

HISTORY AND MODERN LANGUAGES TRIPOS Part IB

Released at 10am on Wednesday 2nd June 2021.

There is a series of staggered submission deadlines for scheduled papers. The order in which you submit your work is up to you.

Your first scheduled paper will be due for submission at 4pm on Friday 4th June.

Your second scheduled paper will be due for submission at 4pm on Wednesday 9th June.

Your third (if any) scheduled paper will be due for submission at 4pm on Tuesday 15th June.

Paper Sp. 5

LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY

*Answer****two****questions, with no more than one question being drawn from Section A. Each answer should be 1,200-1,500 words.*

*Do****not****draw substantially on the same material for more than****one****answer.*

SECTION A

**Foundations, Identity, Difference**

Answer **one** of the following:

1 ‘Texts of the earlier colonial period often explore a more genuine encounter between different cultures and forms of knowledge than those written after Independence.’

Discuss with reference to **two or more** works, at least **one** of which should be from the Colonial period.

2 ‘The representation in Latin American texts of the complex operations of power in colonial and postcolonial societies allows room for surprising acts of negotiation, assimilation, and compromise.’

Discuss with reference to **two or more** works, at least **one** of which should be from the Colonial period.

3 ‘La sexualidad y la violencia son constantes en textos latinoamericanos sobre la identidad nacional, racial y/o cultural.’

Discuss with reference to **two or more** works you have studied for this topic.

4 ‘Attempts to incorporate the voices and experiences of non-Hispanic communities in Latin American texts often accentuate racial and ethnic differences.’

Discuss with reference to **two or more** works you have studied for this topic.

5 ‘The nation is, at heart, a racist and exclusionary project.’

Discuss with reference to **two or more** works you have studied for this topic.

SECTION B

**Representing the City**

6 Answer **one** of the following with reference to **two or more** texts or films:

*(a)* ‘Traditional forms of community and sociability persist in the cities represented in Latin American texts, despite the transitory and fragmentary nature of the modern megalopolis.’

Discuss.

*(b)* ‘Latin American fictions tend to focus on the universal character of urban experience rather than the specific, local conditions that shape the region’s cities.’

Discuss.

*(c)* ‘Las ciudades latinoamericanas no son lugares de encuentro ni de innovación, sino cárceles en las que rigen la segregación y la desesperanza.’

Discuss.

**Charting Revolution**

7 Answer **one** of the following with reference to **two or more** texts (which may include cultural or historical sources):

*(a)* ‘Texts reflecting on Revolution encode its failures into their very mode of address, which is unremittingly intellectual and elitist.’

Discuss.

*(b)* ‘Unanchored and multiple in their narrative perspectives, literary works reflecting on the Revolution convey the displacements and contradictions that characterized this tumultuous period of history.’

Discuss.

*(c)* ‘La capital ocupada por los ejércitos campesinos es la síntesis de lo que sucede en el país.’

How applicable is this statement to the dynamics of the Mexican Revolution?

(TURN OVER)

**Penning the Dictator**

8 Answer **one** of the following with reference to **two or more** texts (which may include cultural or historical sources):

*(a)* ‘De la patria al patriarcado: textos latinoamericanos que se oponen a regímenes autoritarios son también críticas a la exclusión sistemática de mujeres del poder en todas las esferas de la vida social.’

Discuss.

*(b)* ‘Texts about dictatorship in Latin America may register the intimate and material effects of the abuse of power on the body but the worst trauma to which they testify is that of the mind.’

Discuss.

*(c)* ‘In countering an authoritarian logic of hierarchies and exclusions, Latin American writers have exalted that which defies classification: the messy, fluid, entangled character of identities and relationships.’

Discuss.

**Labyrinths of Fiction**

9 Answer **one** of the following with reference to **two or more** texts or films:

*(a)* ‘The textual games of many Latin American texts lull us into intellectual pleasure before accosting us with the violent, the ugly, and the repressed.’

Discuss.

*(b)* ‘To give a text an Author is to impose a limit on that text, to furnish it with a final signified, to close the writing’ (ROLAND BARTHES).

How do metafictional texts from Latin America refuse to ‘close’ writing in the way Barthes describes?

*(c)* ‘The fastidious structure and composition of Latin American metafictional texts belie the impulsive and unpredictable metamorphosis of every living thing within them.’

Discuss.

**END OF PAPER**