Module Title: Renaissance Literature  
Level: Six  
Time Allowed: Two Hours  

Instructions to students:  
- Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.  
- Answer two out of ten questions. At least one of your answers must be wholly on non-dramatic poetry.  
- All questions are equally weighted.  
- Do not discuss the same text in more than one answer.  
- Do not repeat points made, or texts discussed, in earlier assessed work.  
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.  
- Begin each question in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering.  

No. of Pages: 4  
No. of Questions: 10
Answer **two** out of **ten** questions. **At least one** of your answers must be wholly on non-dramatic poetry.

**Note**


**Question 1**

Explore **one** of the following in Renaissance lyric poetry: freedom, hyperbole, ethnicity, status, power, the body, subjectivity, masculinity and/or femininity, translation, patriarchy and its subversion, topoi, Englishness, *sprezzatura*, metaphors and similes. In your answer, refer closely to **at least three** lyric poems.

**Question 2**

‘Samuel Johnson was right about the Metaphysical conceit: its elaborateness is unnecessary.’ How far do you agree? In your answer, refer closely to **at least three** metaphysical poems.

**Question 3**

‘Allegory and emblem are the characteristic modes of Renaissance literary texts; realistic illusion plays only a supporting role.’ Evaluate the accuracy of this statement, referring closely to **either**:

a. **one or two** longer texts  
   or
b. **at least three** lyric poems  
   or

c. **one** longer text and **any number** of lyric poems.

**Question 4**

Analyse the depiction of human failings in Renaissance epic poetry, referring closely to *The Faerie Queene* and/or *Paradise Lost.*
Question 5
To what extent are Renaissance texts interested in imagining new and better worlds? In your answer, refer closely to either:

a. one or two longer texts
   or
b. at least three lyric poems
   or
c. one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

Question 6
Consider the view that the importance of the individual self in Renaissance literary texts has been overestimated. In your answer, refer closely to either:

a. one or two longer texts
   or
b. at least three lyric poems
   or
c. one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

Question 7
‘Renaissance literary texts are interested, above all, in the ways people use language to get what they want.’ Discuss, referring closely to either:

a. one or two longer texts
   or
b. at least three lyric poems
   or
c. one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

Question 8
‘Oddly, for comedies, Shakespeare’s are concerned primarily with revenge’. Discuss, referring closely to Twelfth Night and/or The Tempest.

Question 9
Analyse the exploration of laughter and/or torture in Renaissance tragedy. In your answer, refer closely to King Lear and/or The Duchess of Malfi.
Question 10

Discuss the role of one of the following in Renaissance literary texts: learning, desire, words, the home, mutability, pictures, labour, the state, terror, morality, the soul. In your answer, refer closely to either:

a. one or two longer texts
   or

b. at least three lyric poems
   or

c. one longer text and any number of lyric poems.