Examination Period 3: 2018/19

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** questions. **At least one** of your answers must be wholly on poetry (that is, not on material derived from plays).
- Begin each question in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
- **Do not** discuss the same text in more than one answer (for this purpose, count Petrarchan poetry, including Shakespeare’s Sonnets, as one ‘text’, and Metaphysical poetry as one ‘text’).
- **Do not** repeat points made, or texts discussed, in earlier assessed work (for this purpose, count Petrarchan poetry, including Shakespeare’s Sonnets, as one ‘text’, and Metaphysical poetry as one ‘text’).
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

| No. of Pages | 2  
| No. of Questions | 10  

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Answer two questions.

1. Analyse one of the following in Renaissance lyric poetry: poetic conventions, the speaker’s point of view, the historical context(s) of their production. In your answer, refer closely to at least three lyric poems.

2. To what uses do Metaphysical poets put the originality of their imagery? In your answer, refer closely to at least three metaphysical poems.

3. ‘It is not a question of whether Renaissance writers use realist or non-realist representation. The interesting point is how they combine these alternative styles.’ Assess the value of this statement, referring closely to a) one or two longer texts or b) at least three lyric poems or c) one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

4. ‘Renaissance epic poems are most interesting when they depart from their declared aims.’ How far do you agree? In your answer, refer closely to The Faerie Queene and/or Paradise Lost.

5. How seriously should we take Renaissance writers’ claim to ‘instruct’ their readers in ways to a better life? In your answer, refer closely to a) one or two longer texts or b) at least three lyric poems or c) one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

6. In what ways do Renaissance literary texts explore the notion of individual identity? In your answer, refer closely to a) one or two longer texts or b) at least three lyric poems or c) one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

7. ‘The primary theme of Renaissance literature is persuasion.’ Discuss, referring closely to a) one or two longer texts or b) at least three lyric poems or c) one longer text and any number of lyric poems.

8. Is Renaissance comedy mainly concerned with highlighting the existence of social conflict, or with resolving it? In your answer, refer closely to Twelfth Night.

9. Analyse the exploration of horror and/or comic elements in Renaissance tragedy. In your answer, refer closely to King Lear and/or The Duchess of Malfi.

10. Discuss the role of one of the following in Renaissance literary texts: the domestic sphere, the law, Renaissance humanism, longing, ageing, the environment, the politics of gender, images, work, ethics, death, fear, translation. In your answer, refer closely to a) one or two longer texts or b) at least three lyric poems or c) one longer text and any number of lyric poems.