

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY  
FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN

SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATIONS – SUMMER 1999/2000

BACHELOR OF ARTS – SECOND YEAR

ITALIAN – PAPER 2

Professor E.A. Millar  
Professor C. O'Brien  
Ms. J. Griffin

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Answer ONE Question from IT207 and ONE Question from IT221

Use separate Answer Book for each question

IT207 – DANTE

Answer one Question  
(Use separate Answer Book)

1. "*e io sol uno / m'apparecchiava a sostener la guerra / sì del cammino e sì della pietate.*" (*Inferno* II, 3-5) In the light of his subsequent encounters with various personalities in the course of his journey, how warranted was the preoccupation expressed by Dante in the above quotation? Refer to at least three examples.
2. Define the term *contrappasso* as it occurs in Dante's *Inferno*. Describe the poet's thinking in this regard, using several examples to illustrate your answer.
3. Discuss the role of Virgil in the *Inferno* paying particular attention to the manner and significance of his selection, and to the relationship which evolves between himself and Dante.
4. In the course of the *Inferno* we become aware of Dante's ambivalent attitude to his native city of Florence. Discuss this attitude, illustrating your answer with reference to the text.
5. Consider some of the 'great damned' whom Dante meets on his journey, and the manner in which the poet presents these encounters, selecting at least two such examples to illustrate your discussion.

p.t.o.

## **IT 221 – TWENTIETH CENTURY POETRY**

Answer **ONE** Question  
(Use **separate** Answer Book)

6. What have been the main characteristics of Italian poetry in the first half of the twentieth century? Illustrate your reply by referring to the poets you have studied.
7. What gave rise to the Hermetic school of poetry and in what way did it differ from the poetry that preceded it?
8. In what way does Umberto Saba use what is ordinary and everyday as a source of inspiration for his poetry? Discuss with reference to the poems you have studied this year.
9. What are the main features that distinguish the work of Mario Luzi **or** Edoardo Sanguineti from other contemporary Italian poets?
10. Give a critical analysis of **one** of the following poems:

- (a) Non recidere, forbice, quel volto,  
solo nella memoria che si sfolla,  
non far del grande suo viso in ascolto  
la mia nebbia di sempre.

Un freddo cala...Duro il colpo svetta.  
E l'acacia ferita da sé scrolla  
il guscio di cicala  
nella prima belletta di Novembre.

(E. Montale)

- (b) Il tuo angelo si è fermato sotto un sicomoro di Samaria,  
attende che le sue fronde parlino con la tua lingua sconosciuta  
molto più del vento, d'amore come tu sai parlarmi tacendo  
in questa quiete tragica sorridendo  
più d'una foglia che lampeggia incredula  
tra i frutti oscuri e il sangue che ferisce.

(P. Bigongiari)