

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
SEMESTER II EXAMINATIONS, 1998-9**

**FIRST ARTS
IT102 LITERARY HISTORY
IT103 CONTEMPORARY TEXTS**

Dr. D. Zancani
J. Griffin
L. McLoughlin

Time allowed: three hours

Section A: Answer one question

Section B: Answer all questions in part 1, or 2, or 3; or write an essay in answer to question 4

Section A

1. The era of the communes in Italy gave particular impetus to the use of vernacular. Comment, indicating the nature of the change from the practice prevailing up to then. It is essential that you illustrate your discussion with reference to the various writings of the period.
2. The 1300s witnessed a wide variety of literary activity in vernacular as well as very contrasting attitudes to its merits as a literary language. Comment.
3. Assess in general terms the use of vernacular in fifteenth century Italy. Refer to the possible impact on the fortunes of the language of certain socio-political situations.
4. Compare and contrast writing in Italian during 1500s and 1600s, identifying the factors that influenced the major trends.
5. "It is during 1700s that Italian makes the definitive transition from being largely a literary language to being a genuinely national one." Comment, indicating also the various 'non-literary' areas in which the transition can be noted.

Section B

Part 1

G. Tomasi di Lampedusa: Il Gattopardo

- 1a) Explain how the sense of impending death is conveyed by Tomasi di Lampedusa
- 1b) Throughout the book, the landscape is described in a subjective manner. Explain what this means and give an example.
- 1c) Discuss Tomasi di Lampedusa's attitude to women characters, making specific references to the text.

P.T.O.

Part 2

Dacia Maraini: La lunga vita di Marianna Ucrìa

- 2a) In the story, Marianna grows from a little girl to a mature woman. Illustrate and explain her psychological development in a hostile environment
- 2b) Explain the use of silence as a metaphor for women's condition within the family
- 2c) Write a personal comment to this book, motivating your argument.

Part 3

Dario Fo: L'uomo nudo e l'uomo in frac

- 3a) Discuss the features which identify this play as a farce
- 3b) In this play, Fo tackles, through the medium of ridicule, significant aspects of post-war Italian society. Identify these aspects and discuss them
- 3c) Discuss one character of your choice.

Part 4

History (essay)

The setting of Umberto Eco's novel *Il nome della Rosa* in medieval times has been seen by some critics as a metaphor for the social condition of contemporary Italy. Draw a picture of Italian society from the late Fifties to the early Eighties.