

Jm0016

**OLLSCOIL Na hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY**

SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATIONS, 2000/2001

SECOND ARTS EXAMINATION

EN264 Studies in Medieval Literature

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TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

ANSWER ALL THREE SECTIONS

AVOID DUPLICATION OF MATERIAL

Section A

Answer **all** 20 multi-choice questions by placing a tick beside the **correct** answer. This section is worth 20 points.

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT NUMBER: _____

1. According to the "General Prologue", what is it that people want to do in springtime?
- (a) make love
 - (b) rape and pillage
 - (c) go on pilgrimages
 - (d) start new businesses

Contd./...

.../Contd.

2. How many pilgrims does the narrator meet in the Tabard?

- (a) 129
- (b) 29
- (c) 19
- (d) 39

3. Who is speaking in the following lines?

“Ye goon to Caunterbury – God yow speede,
The blisful martir quite yow youre meede!
And wel I woot, as ye goon by the weye,
Ye shapen yow to talen and to pleye;”

- (a) Nicholas
- (b) The Wife of Bath
- (c) The Host
- (d) Theseus

4. The pilgrims are on their way to Canterbury to visit the shrine of which saint?

- (a) St. Philomena
- (b) St. Jude
- (c) St. Thomas à Becket
- (d) St. Anthony of Padua

5. Emelye is devoted to the following god:

- (a) Diana
- (b) Venus
- (c) Juno
- (d) Cupid

6. Which words best describe the influence cast by Mars in the description of the **Temple of Mars** in the “Knight’s Tale”?

- (a) Triumphant and vigorous
- (b) Promiscuous and seductive
- (c) Malign and destructive
- (d) Chaste and stern

7. Which creature is depicted on Theseus’s military banner?

- (a) the Phoenix
- (b) the Sphinx
- (c) the Griffin
- (d) the Minotaur

8. Palamon is devoted to the following god:

- (a) Venus
- (b) Jupiter
- (c) Neptune
- (d) Mars

Contd./...

.../Contd.

9. Absolon is disgusted by the following phenomenon:
- (a) spinach between the teeth
 - (b) farting
 - (c) warm beer
 - (d) mutton dressed as lamb
10. The narrator defends his decision to include "The Miller's Tale" in his collection on the following grounds:
- (a) that he is obliged to reproduce exactly what he has heard, no matter how **foul it might** be
 - (b) that he needs to spice things up a bit
 - (c) that the Miller forced him at knife-point to include the tale
 - (d) that he thinks every man in the audience should hear this **story of adultery**
11. Which of the following best describes Nicholas's interests?
- (a) scholarly
 - (b) sexual, musical and astrological
 - (c) civic
 - (d) philanthropic
12. In the "Squire-Franklin Link" the Franklin's attitude is best described as the **following?**
- (a) every man for himself
 - (a) women and children first
 - (b) virtue and not social position or wealth should be the basis for **true nobility**
 - (c) Even if you have only a puck goat, be in the middle of the fair with it
13. Aurelius is
- (a) a parson
 - (b) a knight
 - (c) a clerk
 - (d) a squire
14. Arveragus believes that Dorigen should keep her promise to Aurelius because **he thinks**
- (a) that Aurelius is an important person and it would not be prudent to annoy him
 - (b) that the keeping of one's word is of the highest importance
 - (c) that Dorigen might as well satisfy her sexual curiosity now **rather than later**
 - (d) that it would be beneath his dignity to stop her
15. "The Franklin's Tale" is chiefly concerned with which of the following virtues?
- (a) hospitality
 - (b) chastity
 - (c) bravery
 - (d) generosity

Contd./...

.../Contd.

16. Orfeo is admitted into fairyland because he is a
 - (a) king
 - (b) true lover
 - (c) minstrel
 - (d) sincere penitent
17. The text of *Sir Orfeo* claims that the story comes from
 - (a) Brittany
 - (b) Wales
 - (c) Rome
 - (d) Ireland
18. The Pearl Maiden retells the Biblical story of
 - (a) the loaves and fishes
 - (b) the Vineyard
 - (c) the Good Samaritan
 - (d) the survival of the baby Moses
19. The narrator of *Pearl* has his vision during the season of
 - (a) Yuletide
 - (b) Harvest time
 - (c) Spring
 - (d) Advent
20. What aspect of the Lamb most affects the narrator of *Pearl*?
 - (a) his sudden disappearance
 - (b) the softness of his fleece
 - (c) his voice
 - (d) his wound

Contd./...

.../Contd.

Section B

Choose **four** out of these six passages. In the case of each of the four **passages** that you choose do the following: first, analyse the passage, identifying the important issues or questions that it raises; second, relate the passage to the text from which it is taken. Try to write only one or two tightly argued, well-informed paragraphs per passage. This section is worth 30 points.

1. But first I preye yow, of youre curteisye,
That ye n'arete it nat my vileynye,
Thogh that I pleynly speke in this mateere,
To telle yow hir wordes and hir cheere,
Ne thogh I speke hir wordes properly.
For this ye knowen al so wel as I:
Whoso shal telle a tale after a man,
He moot reherce as ny as evere he kan
Everich a word, if it be in his charge,
Al speke he never so rudeliche and large,
Or ellis he moot telle his tale untrewe,
Or feyne thyng, or fynde wordes newe.
He may nat spare, although he were his brother;
He moot as wel seye o word as another.
Crist spak hymself ful brode in hooly writ,
And wel ye woot no vileynye is it.
Eek Plato seith, whoso kan hym rede,
The wordes moot be cosyn to the dede.
Also I prey yow to foryeve it me,
Al have I nat set folk in hir degree
Heere in this tale, as that they sholde stonde.
My wit is short, ye may wel understonde.
(“General Prologue”, 725-46)

Contd./...

.../Contd.

2. "Allas, why pleynen folk so in commune
On purveiaunce of God, or of Fortune,
That yeveth hem ful ofte in many a gyse
Wel bettre than they kan himself devyse?
Som man desireth for to han richesse,
That cause is of his mordre or greet siknesse;
And som man wolde out of his prisoun fayn,
That in his hous is of his meynne slayn.
Infinite harmes been in this mateere.
We witen nat what thyng we preyen heere;
We faren as he that dronke is as a mous.
A dronke man woot wel he hath an hous,
But he noot which the righte wey is thider,
And to a dronke man the wey is slider.
And certes, in this world so faren we;
We seken faste after felicitee,
But we goon wrong ful often, trewely.
(*"The Knight's Tale*, 1251-67)

3. Our Hooste lough and swoor, "So moot I gon,
This gooth aright; unboked is the male.
Lat se now who shal telle another tale;
For trewely the game is wel bigonne.
Now telleth ye, sir Monk, if that ye konne,
Somwhat to quite with the Knyghtes tale."
The Millere, that for drunken was al pale,
So that unnethen upon his hors he sat,
He nolde avenge neither hood ne hat,
Ne abyde no man for his curteisie,
But in Pilates voys he gan to crie,
And swoor, "By armes, and by blood and bones,
I kan a noble tale for the nones,
With which I wol now quite the Knyghtes tale."
Our Hooste saugh that he was dronke of ale,
And seyde, "Abyd, Robyn, my leewe brother;
Som bettre man shal telle us first another.
Abyd, and lat us werken thriftily."
"By Goddes soule," quod he, "that wol nat I;
For I wol speke or elles go my wey."
(Prologue to *"The Miller's Tale"*, 3114-33)

Contd./...

.../Contd.

4. She gan to looke upon Aurelius;
"Is this youre wyl," quod she, "and sey ye thus?
Nevere erst," quod she, "ne wiste I what ye mente.
But now, Aurelie, I knowe youre entente,
By thilke God that yaf me soule and lyf,
Ne shal I nevere been untrewe wyf
In word ne werk, as fer as I have wit;
I wol been his to whom that I am knyht.
Taak this for fynal answer as of me."
But after that in pley thus seyde she:
"Aurelie," quod she, "by heighe God above,
Yet wolde I graunte yow to been youre love,
Syn I yow se so pitously complayne.
Looke what day that endelong Britayne
Ye remoeve alle the rokkes, stoon by stoon,
That they ne lette ship ne boot to goon –
I seye, whan ye han maad the coost so clene
Of rokkes that ther nys no stoon ysene,
Thanne wol I love yow best of any man;
Have heer my trouthe, in al that evere I kan."
(*"The Franklin's Tale, 979-98*)

5. And on a day he seigh him beside
Sexty levedis on hors ride,
Gentil and jolif as brid on ris.
Nought o man amonges hem there nis,
And ich a faucon on hond bere,
And riden on hawkin by o rivere.
Of game they founde well good haunt,
Malaundes, hairoun and cormeraunt.
The fowles of the water ariseth,
The faucouns hem wele deviseth;
Ich faucoun his prey slough.
That seigh Orfeo and lough:
'Parfay,' quath he, 'there is fair game;
Thider ichill, by Goddes name.
Ich was ywon swich werk to see.'
(*Sir Orfeo, 303-17*)

Contd./...

.../Contd.

6. 'Bot, jueler gente, if thou schal lose
Thy joy for a gemme that the was lef,
Me think the put in a mad porpose,
And busyes the aboute a raysoun bref;
For that thou lestes was bot a rose
That flowred and fayled as kynde hyt gef.
Now thurgh kynde of the kyste that hyt con close
To a perle of prys hit is put in pref.
And thou has called thy wyrde a thef,
That oght if noght has mad the cler.
Thou blames the bote of thy meschef;
Thou art no kynde jueler.'

(*Pearl*, 265-766)

Section C

Answer **two** of the six questions below. This section is worth 50 points.

1. The year 2000 is the 600th anniversary of Chaucer's death. Using "The General Prologue" as the basis of your answer, describe what you **think is the** value of his poetry today.

OR

Do you think "The General Prologue" is organized around a principle of order? Whether you think so or not, state your reasons.

2. What do you think is really the chief problem that "The Knight's Tale" deals with?

OR

What use is made of Boethian ideas in "The Knight's Tale"?

3. People are in two minds about "The Miller's Tale". Some think that **it supports** the social and sexual status quo; others think that it is **subversive and** dangerous. Which of the two camps do you belong to? **State your reasons.**
4. Analyse the ways in which "The Franklin's Tale" explores the notion of "trouthe".
5. What value does the poem *Pearl* place upon human experience as **a basis for** knowledge?
6. In *Sir Orfeo*, what is the meaning of the hero's time in the wilderness? **END.**