SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION
Honour School of History
Honour School of Ancient and Modern History

FURTHER SUBJECT 9:
Literature and Politics in Early Modern England

TRINITY TERM 2019

Monday 27 May 2019, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Candidates must answer THREE questions, and COMPLETE all their answers. They should illustrate their answers, as far as possible, by reference to the prescribed authorities, and must complete AT LEAST ONE answer from BOTH Section A and Section B.

Do not turn over until told that you may do so
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SECTION A

1. Which shared preoccupations link More’s writings?
2. What does the form of Skelton’s verse tell us about its function?
3. What do Wyatt’s translations reveal about his political and religious views?
4. ‘... of all sciences ... is our poet the monarch. For he doth not only show the way, but gives so sweet a prospect into the way as will entice any man to enter it’ (Sidney, A Defence of Poesy). Did Sidney seek to fulfil these ideals when writing the Old Arcadia?
5. What is the relationship between gender and authority in the Fairie Queene?
6. Did Shakespeare display different political preoccupations in his English and Roman history plays? You may answer with reference to TWO OR MORE plays.
7. How does an understanding of the ‘politics of genre’ (Norbrook) illuminate Marvell’s poetry?
8. How radical a thinker was Milton?

SECTION B

9. To what extent did authors respond to the expectations of their intended audiences?
10. How coherent a sense of national identity emerges from the prescribed works?
11. In which senses does the literature of the period illuminate our understanding of English Protestantism?
12. Why is your writers’ depiction of the ruling elite predominantly negative?
13. How explicitly did dramatists comment on contemporary politics?
14. For which reasons did your authors choose to write EITHER epic OR pastoral poetry?

15. To what extent did EITHER censorship OR patronage inspire the literary imagination?

16. Why does the theme of romantic love occur so frequently in literature about politics?