

HUI216, Final exam — May 14, 2007

Please write your name here: (Last, First) _____

Please write your ID number here: _____

Please sign here: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS!
DO NOT OPEN THE EXAM UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO...

Please make sure that your beeper and/or cell phone are turned off and stored away, out of sight. This applies also to iPods, PDAs, and all portable electronic devices.

Fill in your NAME and IDENTIFICATION NUMBER on the scantron form before starting.

There are 45 multiple-choice questions and 4 essay questions in this exam: the multiple-choice questions are worth 2 points each (no partial credit), the essay questions 4 points each (partial credit is available). Multiple-choice answers must be filled in on the scantron form with a black #2 pencil. Short-answer questions must be written on the exam, with a pen.

Scantron forms and exams will be collected together. You have two hours to finish the exam.

You are not allowed to ask any questions during the exam. If you need assistance (for example, if your pen stops working or you don't have a pencil), raise your hand.

You cannot leave the room until you have handed in the exam.

When you are ready to hand in the exam, get up and form a line on the right side of the classroom. Please have your ID card ready. Remember that once you get up to hand in the exam, you cannot go back to your seat and you cannot write anything on your exam or the scantron form. If there are 10-12 people waiting in line, please remain seated until the line gets shorter. Please leave the room quietly, trying not to disturb those who are still working on the exam.

1. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding St. Augustine [see Topics 10a2, 10a5 St. Augustine and the virtues of the ancient Romans (***)]:

- A) All of these statements are correct
- B) St. Augustine believed that the values of Greco-Roman civilization were, for the most part, radically different from the principles of Christianity, and therefore incompatible with it
- C) The City of God was written in the years following the sack of Rome by the Visigoths. In it, St. Augustine tried to provide a systematic re-examination of Roman history, suggesting that God supported the development of the Roman Empire (under which Jesus was to be born)**
- D) St. Augustine agreed with those who saw in the sack of Rome a sign of the weakness of the new God accepted by the Romans, a God who seemed unable or unwilling to protect the city of Rome and its inhabitants

2. St. Ambrose, a Roman citizen born in France, shaped the format and the formulae of many Catholic rituals. Ambrose, together with Augustine and other Doctors of the Church, introduced and popularized the allegorical interpretation of the Bible and of Christian life. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 10a.1 St. Augustine, St. Ambrose and the allegorical interpretation of the Bible, of faith and life (***)]:

- A) All of these statements are correct**
- B) The allegorical interpretation was based on the assumption that the Bible was directed by God to the Church in general, not just to a single group in a specific place, or to a community that lived only during a certain time
- C) An example of the allegorical interpretation of the Old Testament is the episode of the prophet Jonah in the belly of the whale: the allegory does not take away from the reality of Jonah's experience, and yet at the same time that story was read also as a prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection
- D) During this time, both the Bible and human life were seen as having multiple layers of signification: through the Bible and through all events God is communicating with each individual

3. A conference was held in Florence in February of 2001, entitled "La parola Italia" (The word Italy) [see Topic 1.4 "La parola Italia" (***)]. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) Italians now have a strong national identity, and therefore they do not support the idea of a stronger European Union
- B) As former premier Giuliano Amato said at the conference, ideals such as State and Nation have finally acquired prestige in Italy today, thanks to the efforts of Italian politicians and their parties
- C) Patriotism and nationalism in Italy were weakened by the events of 1943-45, when Italian fascists who continued the war on the side of the Germans exploited those values for their propaganda**
- D) All of these statements are correct

4. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the Italian language, its history and its internal components [see Topic 1.9 National Italian identity and the issue of language (***)]:

- A) Most Italians, until the early 1960s, were bilingual: they usually spoke a local dialect as their primary language at**

home or with their friends; they learned standard Italian at school (or from the media), and they used it in public places or in the presence of somebody from a different region

B) Soon after the collapse of the Roman empire, when Latin ceased to be the language of the government and of the local administrations, a single national vernacular language soon appeared in Italy, and early on, before the Middle Ages, it became the basis for modern Italian

C) Modern Italian is entirely based on the ancient language used by great late medieval writers such as Dante, Boccaccio and St. Augustine

D) The various Italian dialects, which derive from Latin and from other non-Indo-European languages, are very similar to one another, since they are simple variations of the old Italian language

5. According to the 2001 national census, there are approximately 57 million people living in Italy [see Topic 2.7 The Italian census of 2001 (***)]. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) A significant number of cities in Italy (more than 3) have more than five million people: even after the fall of the Roman Empire, the city of Rome has remained the main center of Italy's political and cultural life

B) Almost half of the Italian population lives in towns with less than 20,000 residents: this fact has contributed to the strength and vitality of the different local cultures

C) More than half of the Italian population lives in cities with more than 1,000,000 residents: the urban culture developed in the large metropolitan areas has been a strong unifying factor in Italian history

D) All of these statements are correct

6. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding national and regional identities in Italian society [see Topics 1.1-1.3, 1.6 and 2.9 The South and the North of Italy. Italian proverbs and sayings. Maurice Hewlett and the Anglo-American travelers from the early 1900s (**/***)]:

A) Anglo-American travel writers like Maurice Hewlett found very few remaining traces of medieval history in Tuscany. By the end of the 19th century it was presumed that the fights among different Tuscan city-states had been completely forgotten

B) Old proverbs and sayings, still so popular in many regions (for example the sayings "Florentines blind," "Sienese mad"), confirm that local identities have always been very strong in Italy

C) Since World War II, Italians from the North and the South have reconciled their differences and have abandoned all the stereotypes that were once so common

D) The creation of an Italian identity, and the very idea of Italy as one society (with one sentiment, common projects for the future and shared traditions) has been a relatively fast process compared to other countries in Europe, such as Spain, France or England

7. Identify the correct statement regarding the main institutions of the European Union, from among the following [see Topic 2.16 The main institutions of the EU (***)]:

A) The European Parliament is elected by the citizens of the member states of the European Union. For a long time

the European parliament has been just a consulting body. Now it is a legislative body, whose powers will become fully operational once the European constitution is approved

B) The Court of Justice is the executive body, with the right to initiate legislation. The Court is where the actual power and authority is, within the institutions of the European Union, the place where all the important decisions of the last decade have been made

C) The European Central Bank uses European funds to support a balanced economic development within the Union. The principle behind these subsidies is that the various countries of the EU, rich or poor, large or small, cannot be equal partners if each one of them doesn't receive exactly the same amount of funds

D) The European Commission deals with complaints from the citizens, especially regarding the incorrect use of European funds

8. Identify the statement that correctly lists the most important contributions of the ancient Greek civilization to Roman society [see Topic 3.6, Contributions by the Greeks to Roman civilization (***)]:

A) All of these statements are correct

B) City planning, commerce, the arch. Religious practices, such as the art of predicting the future through the observation of the guts of sacrificed animals, or of natural phenomena, mostly having to do with the sky (for example, the flight of birds)

C) Farming and the language of agriculture, the wheel, horse riding, hunting

D) The alphabet, elements of religion (including numerous myths and the names of many divinities), literature and music, the arts and theater

9. Many elements of Roman civilization have survived. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 4.3 What remains of Roman civilization (***)]:

A) We still have a large number of Latin documents and texts: for a long time they were lost or forgotten, and almost all of them have been found in the course of modern archaeological excavations

B) The Catholic Church and the Italian governments stopped using Latin right after the fall of the Roman Empire. However, the Latin language was reintroduced in Italian society and culture by 15th-century humanists

C) No Roman city, unfortunately, has survived in its pristine form

D) The modern Neo-Latin languages (such as Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, etc.) derive from ancient Latin

10. As Garry Wills pointed out in his 1997 article published by The New York Times, "The canon -- that body of Western thought and art that is supposed to be at the core of all our education -- is succumbing to attack or neglect, is opposed as repressive or dismissed as irrelevant." Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 4.10 "There's Nothing Conservative About the Classics' Revival," by Garry Wills (NYT, 1997) (***)]:

A) For many intellectuals of the Renaissance, the classics were tools, even weapons, that belonged to the medieval order and to the Church: therefore they could not be used to promote

effectively the new ideas of Renaissance culture

B) The much-hyped multiculturalism of postmodern culture represents an insurmountable challenge to the revival of the classics, precisely when scholars are trying to reclaim their validity. Whenever there was a resurgence of interest in the classics, in the past, it was only because the classics were presented in an objective, detached way

C) An important element in the revival of the classics is an emphasis on multiculturalism. For example, Virgil's Aeneid consciously weaves different cultures into the foundation of Rome: the Greeks who brought their culture to Latium, the Latins and Sabines already there, the Etruscans -- all are presented as formative elements in the future Rome

D) All of these statements are correct

11. A number of historical movies were produced in Italy during the 1920s and 1930s. One of the most interesting examples of that historical genre was Scipione l'africano (=Scipio the African), a movie based on the second war between the Romans and the Carthaginians, which was produced with the financial support of the Italian government. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 5.6 Scipione l'africano (dir. Carmine Gallone, 1937) (***)]:

A) There are very few obvious connections between the hero of the film, Scipione, and Mussolini. It was easy to ignore the similarities between this movie's protagonist, the Roman general Scipio, and the image that the Italian public had of Mussolini

B) Critics and children of 1930s Italy recognized that this movie echoed the propaganda of the Fascist regime and its mission, which was to re-educate Italians about the love of their country, and about sacrifice, order and discipline

C) Mussolini and Hitler appeared in a scene of this film, in which they were hailed with chants of "Duce, Duce" by a costumed cast of thousands (many of whom were draftees for the Ethiopian campaign)

D) In the film's epilogue, the Roman general Scipione chooses his military career over his family and farm, knowing that this sacrifice will greatly benefit the Roman state

12. The book written by Edward Luttwak, The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire, looks back to the experience of the ancient Romans to find examples that could be useful for modern-day strategists. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topics 7.2, The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire (***)]:

A) Roman tactics were almost invariably superior, and the typical Roman soldier was a warrior intent on proving his courage, initiative and extraordinary heroism

B) The principal goal of the Romans was to provide security for their civilization without constraining the vitality of its economic base, and without compromising the stability of the political order

C) Roman weapons were universally more advanced than those used by their enemies

D) The endurance of the Roman Empire depended solely on a fortunate succession of great generals and a multitude of competent soldiers

13. The description of a mutiny of the Roman legions provided

by Tacitus makes us understand some of the political and social issues that became relevant during the first century of the Roman Empire. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 7.10 The mutiny of the legions (***)]:

- A) The description of the conditions of the Roman soldiers, done by Percennius in his speech (as reported by Tacitus), is not an accurate and realistic portrait of military life under the Roman Empire
- B) References to the questionable morality of one of the leaders of the mutiny, Percennius, are not really meant to detract from the validity of the claims of the soldiers
- C) When Tacitus narrates this episode, he clearly sympathizes with the soldiers and takes side with them on practically all issues
- D) Tacitus, like many other well educated conservatives in Roman society, did not look favorably at the political alliance between emperors and soldiers**

14. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Edward Luttwak's book, The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire [see Topics 7.2-7.3, The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire. Systems of imperial security (***)]:

- A) The Romans learned that the most desirable use of the army is exclusively military, not political; and indeed they conquered the entire Hellenistic world with endless battles and very little diplomacy
- B) The ideal Roman general was a true hero, often leading his troops in reckless charges to victory or death. He'd rather accept the inevitable losses of full-scale warfare or suffer great casualties in taking fortifications by storm than advance in a slow and carefully prepared manner
- C) Roman armies had a peculiar quality: Roman soldiers would quickly win a number of battles on the field, but they were very easily defeated in a prolonged military campaign. This happened because they usually lacked the support of a large and complex security system
- D) Three distinct systems of imperial security can be identified in ancient Rome. Each system was intended to satisfy a distinct set of priorities: hegemonic expansionism for the first system, territorial security for the second, and sheer survival for the last one**

15. The episode of the murder of Agrippina is characterized by an almost Baroque representation of violence, sex, intrigue, simulation and dissimulation. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 8.3, The murder of Agrippina (***)]:

- A) Tacitus and other Roman historians of that period, such as Suetonius, are in agreement on most of the details: this adds credibility to their reports
- B) In reality, Nero may have suspected that his mother wanted for herself at least some of the power that she had procured for her son (which is why on Roman coins of the period one finds not just the face of Nero, but also his mother's profile)**
- C) Tacitus does not pay much attention to the rumors of the possible incest between Agrippina and her son Nero, nor gives it much credit
- D) Even though Tacitus structured the narration of Agrippina's murder as a classical tragedy, prepared by sins and accompanied by all kinds of impious behavior, punctuated by

nightmares and growing anxiety, his account of the events is still completely accurate and objective

16. We don't really need eccentric theories to explain the end of the Roman Empire, because we have sufficient knowledge of the variety of problems that affected Roman society and its economy towards the end. For example, the Emperor Diocletian came up with controversial solutions for some of the Empire's most serious problems. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 8.6, The fall of the Roman Empire. Diocletian (***)]:

- A) Diocletian's reforms produced a significant, long-term growth in the Roman economy. Social mobility increased to the point that it became necessary to create new laws to limit the power of the plebeians
- B) To stop inflation, Diocletian introduced fixed wages/prices, and heavier taxes. In so doing, Diocletian produced economic stagnation and a disheartening loss of social mobility. A black market economy and other forms of social disorganization followed**
- C) To put an end to the political clashes between the Emperor and the senators, the Roman Senate got back most of the power that it had lost at the end of the Republic
- D) To maintain social unity, Diocletian put an end to the practice of enlisting barbarians recruits, especially Germans, in the Roman army

17. The emperor Constantine (305-337 CE) is one of the most famous in Roman history. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 8.6, The fall of the Roman Empire. Constantine (***)]:

- A) An official historical document from the age of the Roman Empire, which survived through the Middle Ages, proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that Constantine donated the city of Rome to the Pope and to the Church. He did so to show gratitude, and out of respect for the religion he himself had converted to
- B) Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Italy to Alexandria, in the Middle East, to bring the administrative and military apparatus closer to those areas that had become culturally and spiritually important, Israel and Egypt
- C) With the edict of Milan Constantine guaranteed freedom of religion to the Christians. Constantine himself, according to tradition, converted to Christianity, either out of a sincere personal desire, or driven mostly by political reasons**
- D) Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Milan, in northern Italy, to be closer to the borders of the Empire in central and eastern Europe, areas strategically important and economically vital

18. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the process of national unification in Italy [see Topic 1.2 The slow process of political unification (***)]:

- A) Italian intellectuals, writers and artists for a very long time have kept alive the idea of Italy, and have believed, before it became reality, in the possibility of creating a society based on well-defined national values, common projects for the future, and common traditions**
- B) During the naval battle of Lissa (1866), the newly created Italian fleet battled against the fleet of the Austrian empire,

whose ships were manned mostly by Venetian sailors under the orders of Austrian officers. The Italians won this battle because the Venetians refused to fight against fellow Italians, confirming that national identity was a growing reality

C) Wars and violent fights among Italians as well as divisions on political and social issues have been relatively rare in the history of Italy

D) All of these statements are correct

19. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the process of national unification in Italy [see Topic 1.3 Dual identities throughout Italian history. Unifying factors in Italian civilization (***)]:

A) The process of national unification did not erase the differences that existed in Italian society. In fact many citizens failed to identify with the new national government, and the forced, centralized process of unification reinforced their allegiance to their local community

B) All of these statements are correct

C) While Roman civilization did so much to unify Italy politically and administratively, the process of cultural and linguistic assimilation of the various cultures and civilizations that existed before and during Roman domination was much slower, and in some cases was interrupted by the barbaric invasions and by the collapse of the Empire

D) After the Roman Empire collapsed, various local communities, which maintained limited contacts with one another, saw a resurgence of local customs and dialects

20. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the ideological function of historical films in Fascist Italy [see the required reading from James Hay, Popular Film Culture in Fascist Italy (**)]:

A) For Italians, historical films not only reflected contemporary ideological issues but (for a growing movie public) helped legitimate a national, popular identity. After the First World War, the earlier successes of these films induced Italian producers to subsidize other historical films

B) In the 1937 film *Scipione l'Africano*, the hero's political responsibilities appear inextricable from his role as loving father. The crisis which threatens to divide the nation also threatens the safety of his family, and in his dual role, as a family man and as a statesman/warrior, he is compelled to defend both

C) Film and social historians point to some of the 1930s historical films as the most ideological displays of Fascist nationalism, i.e., of the government's attempt to reeducate the public and to mastermind a political consensus

D) All of these statements are correct

21. "The scene was a contrast to all civil wars which have ever occurred. It was not in battle, it was not from opposing camps, it was from those same dwellings where day saw them at their common meals, night resting from labor, that they divided themselves into two factions, and showered on each other their missiles. Uproar, wounds, bloodshed, were everywhere visible; the cause was a mystery. All else was at the disposal of chance" (Tacitus, *A mutiny of the Roman legions*, from the *Annals*, Book I). Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the mutiny described by Roman historian Tacitus [see Topic 7.10 *The mutiny of the legions* (***)]:

A) All of these statements are correct

B) Overall, the entire episode is meant to convey the political idea that the political alliance between Emperors and soldiers cannot benefit Roman society and may in fact gravely affect its future

C) The underlying assumption, which comes out here and there in the narration, is that when the Army and its leaders were under the supervision and the leadership of the Senate, Roman society was more stable and stronger

D) Even during the worst times of political turmoil at the end of the republic, Tacitus suggests, there was never such a display of immorality and lack of military discipline

22. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the impact of Christianity on the fortune of Roman civilization [see Topic 10a.7 St. Augustine and medieval culture: conclusions (***)]:

A) It is true that classical culture was at times and in different places ignored or misunderstood during the Middle Ages, but it is a fact that, among other things, the Church itself invested valuable resources in the construction and the maintenance of libraries that included scores of classical texts

B) All of these statements are correct

C) By suggesting that the success of the Roman Empire was part of God's plan, and that it was not by chance that Jesus was born under Roman authority, Augustine established the premise for the preservation of Greek and Roman culture in an integrally Christian society such as that of the Middle Ages

D) Medieval scholars and theologians may have at times attacked or rejected classical philosophers and pagan poets, but they seldom questioned their importance, a fact that seems almost natural now, but which was extraordinary in ancient times, considering how many civilizations have come and gone leaving so few traces (other than those rediscovered thanks to modern archeology)

23. As one can read in the first chapter of our textbook, *The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy*, the idea of Italy as a unified political structure is strongly connected with the creation of the Roman Empire. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see *The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy*, pp. 1-8 (*)]:

A) The process of integrating Italians from different regions into Roman society began with Julius Caesar and with the first emperor, Augustus

B) The main practical consequence of the unification of Italy under the first Roman emperor was the conversion of Italy's towns into administrative entities with an identical political-municipal structure, dictated by Rome

C) The patriotism exhibited in famous literary works of the age of Augustus, such as Virgil's *Aeneid*, originated from a sophisticated program of propaganda, which emphasized values such as national unity and social harmony

D) All of these statements are correct

24. Do you remember the story and the characters in the 2002 Italian novel entitled *The Last Legion*? Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 8.11, Valerio Massimo Manfredi, *The Last Legion* (*)]:

A) *The Last Legion* is the story of Attilius, an aqueduct engineer who dies in Pompeii, during the famous eruption of the Vesuvius volcano

B) *The Last Legion* is the story of Spartacus, a soldier who

becomes a gladiator and fights in the arena with the last Roman Emperor

C) The Last Legion is the story of Aurelius, a Roman veteran from an elite military unit, who rescues the young Romulus, the last Roman Emperor deposed by barbarian leader Odoacer

D) The Last Legion is the story of Nero and his mother, Agrippina: it describes how they conspired to kill the Emperor Claudius and his son Britannicus

25. As Michael Mallett wrote, "Political disunity is often seen as the most significant characteristic of Italy" between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy, pp. 57-68, 76-85 (*):

A) Papal dominancy and role of the Church in Italian politics have often been seen as one of the factors contributing to Italy's military stability and political unity during this period
B) All of these statements are correct

C) Political unity is one of the most significant characteristics of Renaissance Italy; contemporary European monarchies (such as France, England, and Spain) lacked unity in their own geographical areas

D) A major explanation of the cultural vibrancy and authority of the Italian Renaissance lies in the strength of local political autonomy, in the cultural competitiveness between cities and courts

26. Identify the correct statement from among the following, taken from the interview with Paolo Galluzzi, curator of the exhibition "Innovative Engineers of Renaissance" (2001) [see Topic 13.5 Leonardo's inventions in the context of late-medieval and Renaissance technology (**):

A) During the Middle Ages mechanical arts were the lowest level of knowledge. Being trained only in mechanical arts meant you were someone who worked with your hands, someone who was fit only to be directed by someone else who was better educated. We still have a trace of that distinction in our language, in the words "trivial" and "mechanical"

B) All of these statements are correct

C) The situation of the technical worker before the 15th century can be defined as marginal; engineers were generally anonymous

D) One of the most important developments in the art of the 15th century was the introduction of linear perspective: a system of representing three-dimensional space based on the principles of geometry

27. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Pierpaolo Pasolini's movie, Decameron (1971) [see Topic 12.4 Pierpaolo Pasolini's Decameron (**):

A) All of these statements are correct

B) Pasolini alters Ciappelletto's novella to support a religious view of socio-economic issues

C) In his version of the story of Ciappelletto, Pasolini intends to comment on the relationship between men and women in contemporary Italian society

D) In Pasolini's Decameron, Ciappelletto is manipulated by the bourgeoisie; thanks to him, the two usurers will continue undisturbed their capitalist pursuits, and the Church will grow more powerful by exploiting his fame as a saint

28. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the contents of Boccaccio's Decameron [see Topic 12.2 The Decameron (1348-51). Its structure (**):

A) The novellas in the Decameron are organized by topic, with a noticeable descent from order to chaos, from virtue to vice: the negative cycle represents the fear of changes or the resistance to changes that were taking place in society during that time

B) Knights are often the heroes in Boccaccio's novellas: the Decameron reflects the values and the ideology of feudalism

C) The young men and women who leave the city of Florence during the epidemic of plague of 1348, and who tell each other the stories included in the Decameron, all belong to families of the feudal nobility: their storytelling is a way to express their nostalgia for the old world that is about to be replaced by the class of the merchants

D) According to the frame story introduced in Boccaccio's Decameron, seven women and three men meet inside a church in Florence, and decide to go to a villa outside the city, where they spend ten out of fourteen days telling each other stories: their stories contain values that represent the foundation of a new social order

29. According to Amilcare Iannucci ("The presence of Italian literature, old and new, abroad in the 20th-century"), "after Greek and Latin literature, Italian literature is the third in chronological order that aspired to and achieved classical status". Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 11.5 Excerpts from Italian studies in North America (**):

A) Dante's poem was not an instant bestseller; it was only centuries later that the poem became widely known, and was recommended by scholars as an object of study or a source of creative inspiration

B) Inside Limbus Dante meets Tacitus and other great historians of ancient Greece, and they welcome him into their company. With this gesture, Dante claims legitimacy for Latin (the language of his poem), as the new language of literature

C) With a few notable exceptions, contemporary Italian authors have not had an enduring, transforming effect on the literary culture of our time. On the other hand, Dante and the great authors of the Renaissance continue to be powerful cultural forces to this day

D) All of these statements are correct

30. What is Limbus (or Limbo) in Dante's The Divine Comedy? What's its relevance in the poem? Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 11.4 Inferno, Canto 4 (**):

A) Limbus, according to Dante, is the place where the souls of the great men and women from the classical civilization reside after death, inside a beautiful castle surrounded by a pleasant garden

B) Limbus is a place inside Hell, at the bottom of the cave, where the worst sinners are punished and tormented by demons

C) The episode of Limbus and the treatment of the characters in it show the disrespect that Dante and other Medieval scholars had for classical culture, as it was created by pagans

D) Dante's invention of the noble castle, where the spirits of the great men and women from the classical civilizations continue their existence after death, was accepted by many

medieval theologians, and eventually it became an essential part of the Catholic teaching

31. Identify the correct statement from among the following, about the history of medieval civilization in Italy [see Topic 10a.9 The Middle Ages (**)]:

A) Medieval civilization, also known as the Dark ages, was a period in which the Church and the clergy had total control of Italian politics and practically dominated all aspects of social life

B) During most of the Middle Ages Italy was unified politically, and then lost its unity again right before the age known as Renaissance

C) Medieval civilization was an attempt to unify all aspects of life and culture under the umbrella of classical philosophy

D) During the Middle Ages many of the contents and ideas of Greco-Roman civilization were used to support the development of Christian culture

32. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Feudalism [see Topic 10a.13 Feudalism (**)]:

A) Feudalism insured easy and direct control of the lowest vassals, those at the base of the pyramid, by a King or a Prince; it favored centralization over localism

B) Feudalism is a political system that is uniquely European; it cannot be found in Asia (e.g., in Japan or China), or in other parts of the world in different times

C) Feudalism is characterized by a pyramidal organization of power, with governmental powers spreading over various castle-dominated districts and downward through lesser nobles

D) Feudalism is a primitive but effective form of democracy

33. When we look at the excerpts from Tacitus, about the mutiny of the Roman legions and about the lives and crimes of the members of one of the most famous Roman imperial families, should we believe everything we read? Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topics 7.10, 8.3, The mutiny of the legions. The murder of Agrippina (***)]:

A) Maybe. When it comes to the Roman sources regarding the time of the first Emperors, including the remaining documents pertaining to the administration of the Empire and the laws passed during that period, one cannot overlook the uniformity and consistency found in the accounts of Tacitus and other historians

B) All of these statements are correct

C) No. The myth of an extraordinarily corrupt Roman Empire, plagued by all kinds of immoral behaviors, especially in reference to the first century of the common era, is mostly an exaggeration, conjured up by an elite of conservative, nostalgic historians who had a virtual monopoly in the field of historiography

D) Yes. Classical historians were not too different from their modern counterparts: they usually took into consideration many social and economic phenomena, and trends that involved the whole society, rather than focus almost exclusively on single individuals (heroes or villains), and on the direct consequences of their actions

34. Under the Emperor Septimus Severus (193-211 CE) the crisis of the Empire became evident. Roman society, and

particularly the economy and the military, suffered from problems that became increasingly common in later years.

Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topic 8.6, The fall of the Roman Empire. Septimus Severus (***)]:

A) In spite of frequent attacks by Germans, in central and eastern Europe, and by Persians in the Middle East, under Severus the Roman empire continued to expand, and did so for a long time after the second century. Those conquests supported the continued expansion of the economy

B) To compensate for the existing trade deficit, Severus reduced the number of troops in the Roman army. Public funds previously employed to maintain a large army were used instead to support the failing economy

C) To reduce the existing deficit and to boost the economy, Severus increased the amount of silver or gold contained in Roman coins. The use of coins once again replaced the barter system that had been established in several areas of the Empire

D) Under Severus, inflation increased significantly, and reached the level of hyperinflation. Trade deficit and a shortage of silver and gold made the economic situation worse

35. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the contents of The Divine Comedy [see Topic 11.3 The structure of Dante's Inferno (Hell). The world in the Middle Ages (***)]:

A) The Divine Comedy does not claim to be about a real journey: it is meant to be interpreted as a dream or a vision

B) The Divine Comedy is a summa (=sum), a sort of medieval encyclopedia: it tries to summarize a plurality of ideas, and it introduces characters that are representative of the most important areas of culture, politics, and religion

C) At the beginning of The Divine Comedy the protagonist, Dante, is lost in a forest just outside the city of Florence

D) During the first part of his journey, the protagonist of The Divine Comedy is accompanied and guided by the spirit of the Roman poet Lucretius: in fact Dante himself was a follower of Epicurus

36. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Leonardo da Vinci [see Topic 13.2 Leonardo da Vinci: the myth (***)]:

A) When reading the life of Leonardo written by Vasari, one cannot overlook the pathos and the allegorical implications of the last scene, in which the painter dies in the arms of the King of France

B) The basis for the creation of the myth of Leonardo was the abundance of accurate details on him and his life

C) Inside The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, by Jacob Burckhardt (1860), Leonardo is presented as the exact opposite of the Renaissance man: Romantic culture generally did not show much admiration for Leonardo

D) Vasari, as an artist, had a vested interest in the destruction of Leonardo's reputation: he therefore included episodes such as the one in which Leonardo is reprimanded in Milan for not working hard enough

37. St. Francis' poem, entitled "Canticle of the Sun", is one of the first documents of Italian literature. Identify the correct statement from among the following [see Topics 10b.3-10b.4

"The Canticle of the Sun" (***):

A) In his poem, St. Francis praises God for the creation of the universe, with specific reference to the various elements of nature

B) All of these statements are correct

C) In his poem, St. Francis makes reference to "the second death", an expression used also in the New Testament, linked to Judgment day, when each soul, living or dead, past or present, is to be (re)examined and assigned to Hell or Heaven for eternity

D) In line with medieval ideology, St. Francis in his poem praises death, which in the religious culture of that time was seen as a mere transition to a better and fuller life, to be lived in the 'city of God'

38. During Dante's times, this was commonly believed about the Earth (identify the correct statement from among the following) [see Topic 11.3 The structure of Dante's Inferno (Hell). The world in the Middle Ages (***)]:

A) According to Dante, there are only 3 continents (Europe, Africa, and Asia), and the bodies of waters separating them are shaped like a T, the symbol of the cross of Jesus

B) All of these statements are correct

C) According to Dante, Jerusalem, where Jesus died, is practically at the center of the area of our planet that is occupied by land

D) According to Dante, the Earth is not flat; it is a sphere, and its natural place is at the center of a universe shaped like a sphere

39. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the protagonist of the first novella in Boccaccio's Decameron [see Topic 12.3 Analysis of Ciappelletto's novella (Dec. 1.1) (***)]:

A) In Boccaccio's novella, Ciappelletto, a notary from Prato (Tuscany), is described as an ordinary criminal, who is nothing more than a petty thief and a killer for hire

B) Ciappelletto must be considered evil, from the point of view of religious and conventional morality, and yet he is portrayed by the narrator as talented, successful and in demand in the world of merchants

C) Ciappelletto outsmarts a wise old priest, who is not really well versed in the Scriptures, but clearly knows a great deal about the power of rhetoric and about human nature in general

D) From the point of view of religion, there is little doubt that the protagonist of Boccaccio's novella, Ciappelletto will end up in Heaven, because the Church proclaimed him a saint

40. Identify the correct statement among the following, regarding Machiavelli's The Prince [see Topic 14.7 Analysis of The Prince, Chap. 7. Required readings from The Prince (*/***)]:

A) According to Machiavelli, Fortune is the arbiter of the majority of human actions; Fortune is like a raging river: all surrender to its violence, nobody is able to control it

B) In the conclusion of Chapter 7 of The Prince, Machiavelli criticizes Cesare Borgia, previously indicated as the ideal leader, and accuses him of being responsible for his ultimate failure

C) According to Machiavelli, a prince should inspire love, not fear, because it is much safer to be loved than feared, and because in general men are by nature honest and generous

D) Machiavelli claims that Cassius and Brutus, two of the conspirators who murdered Julius Caesar, were the worst sinners that ever lived

41. Identify the correct statement among the following, regarding Machiavelli [see Topic 14.7 Analysis of The Prince, Chap. 7. Required readings from The Prince (*/***)]:

A) According to Machiavelli, a political leader with absolute power should not be concerned with his image or the opinion that citizens have of him

B) According to Machiavelli, Cesare Borgia had one of his closest associates killed, in order to restore his image; he pretended that he did not know about the cruel treatment of the citizens of Romagna

C) After writing The Prince, in which he had praised the institution of the monarchy, Machiavelli changed his political view because of the rejections he had suffered from the Medici, and became republican

D) In Machiavelli's view, power should be shared between the Prince and his subjects, to increase cooperation and to distribute evenly the responsibilities of the government

42. Identify the correct statement among the following, regarding the history of Italy during the Renaissance [see Topic 13.0 Italy during the Renaissance (***)]:

A) The main Italian states during this time were Piedmont, Genoa, Milan, Venice, Ferrara, Mantua, Florence, Siena, the State of the Church, the Kingdom of Naples

B) Italy was invaded by the army of Charles VIII, King of France, in 1494

C) Between 1494 and 1559 France, Germany, Spain and various Italian states fought a long series of war on the Italian soil. In the end Spain emerged victorious, acquiring control over the South of Italy, parts of Tuscany, and Lombardy

D) All of these statements are correct

43. "Charlemagne is a great uniting hero of European mythology, admired in France, Germany, Britain, and Italy alike, and in recent times his Empire has even been cast as an early version of the European Union" (Bryan Ward-Perkins). Identify the correct statement from among the following [see The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy, pp. 38-42 (*):

A) The fact that Pope Leo III, in Rome, crowned Charlemagne as a Holy Roman Emperor, did not imply that the legitimacy of the new 'super-power' was linked to the approval of the Papacy

B) In southern Italy and in Sicily, the arrival of the Arabs, during the 9th century, was less important than the imperial plans and policies of the Frankish kings

C) Thanks to the intervention of Charlemagne and the Franks, by the end of the 8th century new political zones had formed in Italy: a northern zone, under Frankish control; a central block of papal territory; and a southern zone with political and economic links to the East and North Africa

D) In the midst of political and military disruptions, during this time many of the great northern and southern Italian trading towns (Venice, Naples, Genoa, Pisa) declined, and overall suffered more than inland cities

44. During the last 15-20 years, the population growth rate in Italy has been negative or close to zero. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the reasons

