

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
FIRST-YEAR EXAMINATIONS: SAMPLE PAPER

STRATEGIES FOR READING FRENCH TEXTS

Time allowed: 2 hours

Candidates should answer TWO of the following questions, taken from either section of the paper.

Candidates should not make the same text the principal subject of more than one answer.

Read carefully the instructions on the answer book and make sure that the particulars required are entered on each answer book.

SECTION A

In this section, candidates are REQUIRED to illustrate their answers with relevant analysis of ONE OR MORE of the literary, musical or filmic set texts studied in the module. Candidates are also REQUIRED to refer to relevant material from the 4 theory topics covered during the year (authorship and intentionality; history and contextualization; the unconscious; gender and sexuality).

1. Should we pay any attention to what an author says about his or her work?

 2. Defend the benefits of interpreting a text without reference to outside, contextualizing sources.

 3. To what extent and in what ways do the texts set for study push their audiences to struggle with meaning by engaging actively in the reading / listening / viewing process?

 4. 'To interpret a text with gender in mind is necessarily to consider questions of power.' To what extent do you agree?
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continued

5. Why might psychoanalytic criticism be a helpful tool in taking readers beyond the superficial interpretation of a text?
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SECTION B

The questions on this section of the paper relate solely to Foucault's *Surveiller et punir*. You are not required to make reference to other theoretical material in your answer.

6. Discuss the theme of spectacle and the spectacular in Michel Foucault's *Surveiller et punir*.
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7. Identify and evaluate the argumentative and rhetorical strategies Foucault employs in *Surveiller et punir*.
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8. With close reference to *Surveiller et punir*, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Foucault's theory of disciplinary power.
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END