ST MARY’S UNIVERSITY

TWICKENHAM, LONDON

BA/BSc Degree Examination students registered for

Level **FIVE**

Title: **Writing the ‘Renaissance’**

Code: **ENG5001**

Semester: **Resit**

Date: **July 2019**

Time: TBC

TIME ALLOWED: **TWO** HOURS

Candidates must answer **TWO** of the following questions.

1. *either*
2. To what extent, and for what reasons, do you think the term ‘Metaphysical’ appropriate to the poetry of the so-called ‘Metaphysical Poets’?

*Or*

1. ‘The “metaphysical poets” were voracious in their use of learning, and used images from – to name just a few – science, sex, religion, warfare, colonialism, horticulture, and philosophy, to understand some of the most intimate and personal experiences.’ Discuss the imagery of the ‘Metaphysical Poets’ in the light of this statement.
2. *either*
3. In your opinion, how far do Shakespeare’s characters problematise the distinction between ‘cultured’ and ‘savage’ as those terms apply to European and non-European culture and peoples? You should show substantial knowledge of two plays in your answer.

*Or*

1. How useful do you find a ‘post-colonial’ approach to any two plays, or one play and a small selection of poetry from the early modern period?
2. How far does writing of the early modern period destabilise the distinction between ‘good’ and ‘evil’? You should discuss at least two texts in your answer.
3. To what extent do you think it true that, as Machiavelli suggests, what characters *appear* to be is more important than what they *are*, in the worlds represented in any two or more texts you have read on this module?
4. ‘A serious reading of the literature of the early modern period has to take into account the historical contexts in which it was written.’ With reference to at least two texts you have read on this module, how far do you agree with this statement?
5. ‘Although many Renaissance texts appear to question contemporary orthodoxies in matters like religion, gender and politics, they usually end up confirming and perpetuating those orthodoxies.’ Do you agree? In your answer, you should discuss at least two texts.

**END OF EXAMINATION**