

M.A. THIRD LEVEL EXAMINATION

IT3035: ITALIAN DETECTIVE FICTION

May 2005 - Time allowed: 2 hours

Candidates must answer **TWO** questions. ONE question from each section.
Candidates CANNOT answer TWO questions from the SAME section.

Section A has questions on single authors.

Section B has questions requiring answers dealing with more than one author.

Candidates CANNOT answer on the SAME author in both sections.

Answer in English.

SECTION A

1. **Scerbanenco:** What ideas about justice does Scerbanenco present in *Traditori di tutti*?
2. **Macchiavelli:**/

2. **Macchiavelli:** To what extent is the character Sarti Antonio in *Fiori alla memoria* typical of the classic fictional detective figure?
3. **Sciascia:** Sciascia describes *Il contesto* as a 'parodia'. What does this mean for the novel as a work of detective fiction?
4. **Eco:** Is an understanding of its intertextual dimension essential to an appreciation of Umberto Eco's *Il nome della rosa*?
5. **Lucarelli:** How does the setting contribute to Carlo Lucarelli's *Carta Bianca*?
6. **Camilleri:** How would you explain the popularity of Montalbano as a character on the basis of Camilleri's *La forma dell'acqua*?

SECTION B

(Candidates should not refer in their answers to the author chosen in section A)

1. Tzvetan Todorov distinguishes between the *whodunnit* and the *thriller* within the genre of detective fiction. Julian Symonds makes a similar distinction between the *detective story* and the *crime novel*. How far can the Italian detective stories you have read be classified in this way. (Discuss at least three novels).
 2. Compare the role of the sidekick, or 'personaggio di spalla', in three of the Italian detective novels you have read.
 3. To what extent do the investigations in the Italian detective novels you have read come to a successful conclusion? (Discuss at least three novels).
 4. Detective fiction has been described in its classic form as a conservative genre which unquestioningly endorses the social and political *status quo*. To what extent can this be said of the Italian detective novels you have read? (Discuss at least three novels).
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