

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

September examination 2020

**HI281**

**Being Human: Human Nature from the Renaissance to Freud.**

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Time allowed: 7 days

Paper Published: 02 September 09:00am

Submission: By 11:00am on 09 September via Tabula

Answer TWO questions - Each question is limited to 1500 words.

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**Assessment Guidance:**

- You **MUST** read the supporting information on the History website:  
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/covid19andstrikeinformation/covidexam/>
  - You **MUST** submit answers on Tabula by 11:00am on the deadline date (all deadlines can be found on the departmental exam timetable (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/covid19andstrikeinformation/covidexam/sept-tt>) or on your Tabula assessment page.
  - You **MUST** ensure that you upload the correct answer paper to the correct module.
  - Your exam answer paper **MUST** include:
    - Student ID number.
    - The module code and the module title.
    - Clearly state which questions have been answered.
  - Answers should be a maximum of 1500 words.
  - Answers are not expected to include a bibliography or footnotes, however, if you have consulted any materials please list these at the end of your answers.
  - Answers should **NOT** include any significant amount of material already presented in **ANY** assessed work.
  - Where necessary, papers for modules affected by industrial action in the 2019-2020 academic year include additional questions to provide a full range of topics.
  - This take-home assessment is a one-year variance from the normal examination
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1. 'Human nature is what humans assume it to be at a specific moment in time and space.' Discuss.

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2. 'I think ... that there is nothing barbaric or uncivilized except that everyone calls 'barbarism' whatever he is not accustomed too...' (Michel de Montaigne, On Cannibals).

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3. 'It was the soul that made humans "human" in the early modern period.' Discuss.

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4. How does Steven Greenblatt's idea of Renaissance human nature as 'self-fashioned' differ from that of Jacob Burckhardt's ideas of Renaissance Man?

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5. 'Nineteenth-century phrenology was a pseudo-science and can be disregarded by historians.' Do you agree?

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6. Why was sensationalism so successful in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

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7. Was Freud's theory of sexual repression simply an expression of his 'repressed' age?

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8. 'Human evolution is based on the anthropomorphization of nature.' Discuss.

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9. How significant was moral philosophy to Adam Smith's political economy?

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10. '[N]othing is so gentle as man in his primitive state, when placed by nature at an equal distance from the stupidity of brutes and the fatal enlightenment of civil man...' (Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (1754))

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11. How did Descartes' ideas about the functioning of the human body challenge earlier understandings of it?

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12. 'They [women] possess, in a degree greatly beyond us, sensibility of heart, sweetness of temper, and gentleness of manners.' (John Gregory, *A Father's Legacy to his Daughter*. 1774)

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