



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

B.A. (HONS) IN ENGLISH

AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

FINAL EXAMINATION

THE NOVEL AND THE SHORT STORY

DURATION

- **LEVEL 3**
 - **MARCH 2024**
 - **LEU3505/LSU1205/LSD1205**
 - **THREE HOURS (03 hours)**

DATE: 16. 03. 2024

TIME: 01.30pm.- 04.30pm.

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

- 1) Place the following passages in context and comment on their significance to the texts from which they are taken (word count 500 per context).
- a) “Well, then, understand once for all that I never shall or can be comfortable—or anything but miserable—there, Biddy!—unless I can lead a very different sort of life from the life I lead now”
- b) “In marrying your nephew, I should not consider myself as quitting that sphere. He is a gentleman; I am a gentleman’s daughter; so far we are equal.”
 “True. You are a gentleman’s daughter. But who was your mother? Who are your uncles and aunts? Do not imagine me ignorant of their condition.”
- c) “It is obvious from the quality and fittings of the coffin that the farmer has provided money for the funeral. And an elaborate funeral means a great deal to blacks; look how they will deprive themselves of the little they have, in their life-time, keeping up payments to a burial society so they won’t go in boxwood to an unmarked grave.”

- d) “No! They heard! I was certain of it. They knew! Now it was they who were playing a game with me. I was suffering more than I could bear, from their smiles, and from that sound. Louder, louder, louder! Suddenly I could bear it no longer. I pointed at the boards and cried, “Yes! Yes, I killed him. Pull up the boards and you shall see! I killed him. But why does his heart not stop beating?! Why does it not stop!?”

(40 marks)

2. a) “Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice* is critical of how marriage was the only ambition and means for survival for many women of her times.” Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with close reference to the text.

(30 marks)

OR

- b) Estella, as she appears in the novel *Great Expectations*, as a character portrayed in Pip’s memory, is a much-misunderstood female. Do you agree? Write a character sketch of Estella with your focus on how she is a ‘misunderstood’ character in the novel.

(30 marks)

OR

- c) “*The English Teacher* traces Krishna’s journey of self-realization.” How far do you agree with this statement? Discuss using examples from the text.

3. Discuss how the theme of ‘conflict’ is explored in THREE of the short stories selected for study.

(30 marks)