



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

B.A. (HONS) ENGLISH

AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

- **LEVEL 3**

FINAL EXAMINATION

- **March 2024**

DRAMA AND POETRY

- **LEU3506/LSU1206/LSD1206**

DURATION

- **THREE HOURS (03 hours)**

DATE: 17.03.2024

TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm.

ANSWER QUESTION 01 AND TWO (02) OTHERS, SELECTING ONE FROM PART B AND ONE FROM PART C.

PART A

1) **Identify any two of the following passages and comment on their significance to the text from which they are taken (maximum word count 500 per answer).**

- a) *“Cruel and sudden, hast thou since
 Purpled thy nail, in blood of innocence?”*
- b) *“Sickness broke him. Impatient, he cursed at first, but mended
 Being anointed and all;”*
- c) *“Have known the evenings, mornings, afternoons,
 I have measured out my life with coffee spoons;”*
- d) *“All men make faults, and even I in this,
 Authorizing thy trespass with compare,
 Myself corrupting salving thy amiss,
 Excusing thy sins more than thy sins are:”*

(40 marks)

Part B

- 2) Shakespeare's *Macbeth* could be considered as a play that focuses on how power tends to bring out the weaknesses of human beings. Take the character of Macbeth and examine this statement with close reference to the text of the play.

- 3) In his play *Macbeth*, Shakespeare attempts to locate beliefs in supernaturalism as leading to the downfall of human beings, especially of those in power. Do you agree? Take two relevant characters from the play and examine this statement.

(30 marks)

Part C

- 4) "Shakespeare's Sonnets seem to depict the interplay between idealized and realistic portrayals of love and beauty." Comment on the above statement with reference to THREE sonnets you have studied in class.

- 5) In his Holy Sonnets, Donne appears as a narrator who has gained a deeper understanding of life. Examine this "deeper understanding" focusing on 03 of his Holy Sonnets.

- 6) "Dark Sonnets are the poems that expose a crisis in life that seemed to have plagued Hopkins all through his life." Do you agree? Take 03 Dark Sonnets and examine this statement.

- 7) “Keats constantly sought a means of escape from the material world as an antidote to the condition of human suffering.” Take 03 of Keats’ poems and discuss this statement.
- 8) “*The Love Song of Alfred Prufrock* is a testimony to a serious void that can be identified within humanity”. Do you agree? Argue with close reference to the poem.
- 9) “*Riders to the Sea* by Synge is a play that examines the consequences of human beings coming into conflict with nature”. Discuss using examples from the text.

(30 marks)

