

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION - September 2024

INTRODUCTION TO FICTION - LED3511/LSD1211

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 29.09.2024

TIME: 09.30 am – 12.30pm

ANSWER QUESTION 01 IN PART A, AND ONE EACH FROM PARTS B AND C.

Part A

1. Comment on TWO of the following extracts. In your answer,

- (a) place the passage in context.
- (b) comment on the important elements in the passage.
- (c) comment on why the passage is important to the text as a whole.

(i) After dinner, sitting on the pyol, he told her : " Do you know a great load is gone from me today? I thought I had the blood of a man on my hands all these years. That was the reason why I ran away from home, settled here, and married you. He is alive."

She gasped. " You tried to kill ! "

" Yes, in our village, when I was a silly youngster. We drank, gambled, and quarrelled badly one day why think of it now ? Time to sleep," he said, yawning, and stretched himself on the pyol.

(ii) "... I had to do something. Money has a way of taking wings unto itself, and you know it takes money to keep up with our crowd in Washington. I saw this opening in the West, and ..well, a marshalship isn't quite as high a position as that of ambassador, but.."

- (iii) “ ... A few minutes’ walk along the road would bring him to the shop where he collected his paper. He noticed the sky was dark and smudged. Crows were flapping about. Down the road he could see the white dome of the temple near his shop. The flowers of the temple trees , frangipani were out. White blossom. Those were the trees he would like to have on the borders of the land he bought for Siri. But the white of both the dome and the flowers was grubby, as though settled with ash.”
- (iv) "The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together and we have fallen apart."

(40 marks)

Part B

2. The short story ‘Marriage is a Private Affair’ is about the clash between tradition and modernity. Discuss with reference to the story.
3. Shirley Jackson, in her short story ‘The Lottery’, explores the inherent violence in humans. How far do you agree with this statement? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
4. “Romesh Gunasekera’s A House in the Country is a story about belonging and exile.”Discuss.
5. What makes mother-daughter relationships so fraught with complexities?
Discuss either with reference to Amy Tan’s “Two kinds” or Jamaica Kincaid’s “Girl.”

(30 marks)

Part C

6. Discuss the representation of gender roles in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. How do traditional Igbo gender expectations influence the lives and identity creation of both male and female characters in the novel? Analyze using examples from the text.
7. In *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, to what extent are the characters' lives controlled by fate, and how much control do they have over their own choices? How do traditions, personal decisions, and outside forces affect this balance?

(30 marks)