



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH  
FINAL EXAMINATION**

**INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE**

**DURATION**

- **March 2011**  
- **LSC 3204**  
- **THREE HOURS (03 hours)**

**DATE: 06.03.2011**

**TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm**

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN PART A, AND 03 OTHERS, SELECTING ONE EACH FROM PARTS B, C AND D.**

**Part A**

1. (a) **Read the following poem and answer the questions given below.**

**Pet Shop**

Cold blood or warm, crawling or fluttering  
Bric-a-brac, all are here to be bought,  
Noisy or silent, python or myna,  
Fish with long silk trains like dowagers,  
Monkeys lost to thought.

In a small tank tiny enamelled  
Green terrapin jostle, in a cage a crowd  
Of small birds elbow each other and bicker  
While beyond the ferrets, eardrum, eyeball  
Find that macaw too loud.

Here behind glass lies a miniature desert  
The sand littered with rumped gauze  
Discarded by snakes like used bandages.  
In the next door desert fossilized lizards  
Stand in a pose, a pause

But most of the customers want something comfy  
Rabbit, hamster, potto, puss  
Something to hold on the lap and cuddle  
Making believe it will return affection  
Like some neutered succubus

Purr then or chirp, you are here for our pleasure,  
 Here at the mercy of our whim and purse;  
 Once there was the wild, now tanks and cages,  
 But we can offer you a home, a haven,  
 That might prove even worse.

Bric-a-brac	-	miscellaneous small objects, used as ornaments
Dowagers	-	widow with title or property derived from deceased husband
Succubus	-	female demon fabled to have sexual intercourse with sleeping men

1) Give the rhyme scheme of the first three stanzas.

(03 marks)

2) The poet describes what some of the pets look like. Give two examples of this.

(03 marks)

3) What does the poet describe through the simile in the third stanza?

(03 marks)

4) The first three stanzas describe the animals in the pet shop. What are the next two stanzas about?

(05 marks)

### Part B

Select only one question.

2. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

#### **Stop All The Clocks**

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,  
 Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,  
 Silence the pianos and with muffled drums  
 Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle mooning overhead  
 Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead  
 Put the crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves

Let aeroplanes circle mooning overhead  
 Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead  
 Put the crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves  
 Let the traffic policeman wear black cotton gloves.

Who was my North, my South, my East and West,  
 My working week and my Sunday rest,  
 My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;  
 I thought that love would last for ever, I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now, put out every one;  
 Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;  
 Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood,  
 For nothing now can ever come to any good.

*W.H. Auden*

- i. Who do you think is the 'he' in the poem? (02 marks)
- ii. What relationship did the narrator have with the 'he' in the poem? Quote lines from the poem to support your answer. (05 marks)
- iii. What is the situation that the poet is writing about? (05 marks)
- iv. Comment on the techniques of sound used in the poem. (05 marks)
- v. Is the title of the poem effective? Why? (03 marks)

3. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

**My Mother Saw a Dancing Bear**

My mother saw a dancing bear  
 By the schoolyard, a day in June.  
 The keeper stood with chain and bar  
 And whistle-pipe, and played a tune.

And bruin lifted up its head  
 And lifted up its dusty feet,  
 And all the children laughed to see  
 It caper in the summer heat.

They watched as for the Queen it died.  
 They watched it march. They watched it halt.  
 They heard the keeper as he cried,  
 'Now, roly-poly!' 'Somersault!'

And then, my mother said, there came  
 The keeper with a begging-cup,  
 The bear with burning coat of fur,  
 Shaming the laughter to a stop.

They paid a penny for the dance,  
 But what they saw was not the show;  
 Only, in bruin's aching eyes,  
 Far-distant forests, and the snow.

*Charles Causley*

- i. Where and to whom did the bear perform? (02 marks)
- ii. When the bear performed, what did it do? (03 marks)
- iii. What does the poet mean when he says,  
 'But what they saw was not the show;  
 Only, in bruin's aching eyes,  
 Far-distant forests, and the snow ?'  
 (02 marks)
- iv. If you had been watching the bear
  - What would have made you laugh?
  - What would have impressed you about the bear?
  - What would have saddened you?
 (03 marks)
- v. Comment on the techniques of sound used by the poet. (05 marks)
- vi. What is the message that the poet wants to convey through this poem? (05 marks)

### Part C

Select only one question.

4. Discuss George Orwell's political purpose in writing *Animal Farm*. (20 marks)
5. Discuss the major themes of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. (20 marks)

**Part D****Select only one question.**

6. In Susan Glaspell's play, '*Trifles*' analyze Minnie Wright's reasons for killing John Wright? Is she justified in taking Mr. Wright's life? (20 marks)
7. In Susan Glaspell's '*Trifles*', discuss the assumptions the male characters make about the women?

(20 marks)

**Part A**

(b) Give a brief character ketch of the following in *Animal Farm*.

- i) Mollie      ii) Squealer

(13 marks)

(c) Briefly discuss how Mrs. Peters' character develops through Susan Glaspell's *Triples*. Consider how she was at the beginning of the play and at the end of the play.

(13 marks)