



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH

FINAL EXAMINATION	-	July 2014
INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE	-	LSC3204
DURATION	-	THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 20.07.2014 TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30 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.

Dulce et Decorum est

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!-An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.--
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.
In all my dreams before my helpless sight
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs
Bitter as the cud

Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,-
 My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
 To children ardent for some desperate glory,
 The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
 Pro patria mori

Wilfred Owen

(Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori = It is sweet and fitting to die for your country.)

- i) Briefly explain the situation depicted in the poem?
 (04 marks)
- ii) How has the poet used imagery to bring out the meaning of the poem?
 (05 marks)
- iii) How have the poetic techniques of tone, rhyme and rhythm used by the poet contributed to the meaning of the poem?
 (05 marks)
- (b) Give a brief character sketch of Benjamin. Explain his role in the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.
 (13 marks)
- (c) How does the cold temperature of the setting contribute symbolically to the play *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell?
 (13 marks)

Part B

Select only ONE question.

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

Caged Bird

A free bird leaps
 on the back of the wind
 and floats downstream
 till the current ends
 and dips his wing
 in the orange sun rays
 and dares to claim the sky.

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But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

Maya Angelou

- i) Discuss the theme/s depicted in the poem.
(05 marks)
- ii) Comment on the poetic techniques that the poet has used in the poem and how they contribute to its meaning.
(15 marks)

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

The Fisherman Mourned by His Wife

When you were not quite thirty and sun
 Had not tanned you in to old-boat brown,
 When you were not quite thirty and not begun
 To be embittered like the rest, nor grown
 Obsessed with death, then would you come
 Hot with continence upon the sea,
 Chaste as a gull flying pointed home,
 In haste to see me!
 Now that, being dead, you are beyond detection,
 And I need not be discreet, let us confess
 It was not love that married us nor affection,
 But elders' persuasion, not even loneliness.
 Recall how first you were impatient and afraid,
 My eye were open in the dark unlike in love,
 Trembling, lest in fear, you'll let me go maid,

Trembling on the other hand, for my virginity.
 Three months the monsoon thrashed the sea, and you
 Remained at home; the sky cracked like a shell
 In thunder, and the rain broke through.
 At last when pouring ceased the storm winds fell,
 When gulls returned new-plumed and wild,
 When in our wind-torn flamboyante
 New buds broke, I was with child

My face was an while telling you, and voice fell low,
 And you seemed full of guilt and not to know
 Whether to repent or rejoice over the situation.
 You nodded at the ground and went to the sea.
 But soon I was to you more than God or temptation,
 And so were you to me.

Men come and go, some say they understand,
 Our children weep, the youngest think you are fast asleep;
 Theirs is fear and wonderment,
 You had grown so familiar as my hand,
 That I cannot with simple grief
 Assuage dismemberment.
 Outside the wind despoils of leaf
 Trees that it used to nurse;
 Once more the flamboyante is torn,
 The sky cracks like a shell again,
 So someone practical has gone

To make them bring the hearse
Before the rain

Patrick Fernando

- i) Discuss the theme/s depicted in the poem.

(05 marks)

- ii) Comment on the poetic techniques that the poet has used in the poem and how they contribute to its meaning.

(15 marks)

Part C

Select only ONE question.

4. Does Snowball represent a morally legitimate political alternative to the corrupt leadership of Napoleon. Discuss.

(20 marks)

5. What is *Animal Farm's* message? Do you think this would come across effectively, even to a person who is ignorant of the social history?

(20 marks)

Part D

Select only one question.

6. Critically discuss the moral dilemma that Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters undergo in Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*'

(20 marks)

7. Discuss if and how Mr. Wright is different from the other male characters in Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*.

(20 marks)