THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

BA IN ENGLISH & ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

FINAL EXAMINATION	– April 2006
LITERATURE & SOCIETY	– LSU 3201
DURATION	– THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 30. 04. 2006   TIME: 9.30 am.   –   12.30pm.
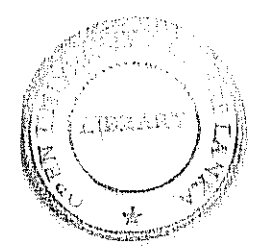
ANSWER 4 QUESTIONS, CHOOSING ONE EACH FROM PARTS A, B, C, & D.

Part A - Drama

1. "The Theatre of the Absurd is concerned with ... exposing the reality of the human condition."

    Would you agree that this is an appropriate description of Pinter's "The Dumb Waiter"?

    Your answer should also discuss the techniques used by Pinter to "expose the reality of the human condition".

Part B - Poetry

2. Would you agree with the statement that "they (the war poets) stripped war of all its tinsel and romance" (Banerjee, 1976)? Discuss with reference to at least two poets that you have studied.

3. Comment on the depiction of, and the attitudes to, the common soldier in the work of the British war poets.

Part C - Fiction

4. Would you agree that in *Sister of My Heart* "Divakaruni depicts a society in which women's choices are governed by their social and economic conditions."?

5. Achebe's *A Man of the People* is a novel about a nation in transition. Discuss.

Part D - Criticism

6. Analyse both poems and discuss the different points of view in them, using your knowledge of feminist criticism.

Strange Bedfellows

a)
*I have marked this woman out
for me.
We will be tied together
by the scarlet sari
of her blood.
Seven times around
the fire of my shots
What I have done
is done
for all my unborn sons
Her mangalasutra
will be a bullet
to her breast,
My garland
a hempen rope
around my neck.
and a swift sharp
erection
into death.*

Sheer Good Luck

b)
So many things
could have happened to me.
I could have been kidnapped,
at the age of seven
and ravaged by
dirty-minded middle – aged men.
I could have been married off
to a man with a bad smell
and turned frigid
as a frigidaire.
I could have been an illiterate woman
putting thumb – prints
on rent-receipts.
But nothing ever happened to me
except two children
and two miscarriages.

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