

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
BA IN ENGLISH & ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING



FINAL EXAMINATION

- July 2009

LITERATURE & SOCIETY

- LSU 3201

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 01. 07. 2009

TIME: 9.30 am.

- 12.30pm.

ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND THREE OTHERS CHOOSING ONE EACH FROM PARTS B, C, & D.

Part A – Drama (25 marks)

Either

1. "Pinter's play "The Dumb Waiter" reveals a yawning gap between language and reality." Explain this statement with relevant examples from the play.

Or

"The theatre of the absurd is uncompromisingly honest and fearless in exposing the reality of the human condition." Explain this statement with relevant examples from "The Dumb Waiter".

Part B – Poetry (25 marks)

Either

2. The Great War forced Owen to be an honest man. Explain this statement illustrating your answer with Owen's poems.

Or

Horror, anger and disgust are some of the negative emotions portrayed in the poetry of Sassoon. Demonstrate this using at least two of his poems.

**Part C – Fiction (25 marks)**

4. Literature is a reflection of the changes, crises and realities that are present in a particular society. How true would you say this statement is, in relation to the two novels you studied, *Sister of My Heart* and *A Man of the People*? Discuss your answer with illustrations from both novels.
5. Writers have a responsibility to reflect on the society in which they live in or write about. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss your answer with illustrations from both novels, *Sister of My Heart* and *A Man of the People*.

**Part D – Criticism (25 marks)**

6. **Either**

To what extent would you agree with the statement that violence is an essential component of Jasmine's reinvention in *Jasmine* by Bharati Mukherjee?

**Or**

Discuss the conflict between duty and desire in Jasmine's search for self-assertion in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*.