

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 BA IN ENGLISH & ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING
 FINAL EXAMINATION
 LITERATURE & SOCIETY
 DURATION

- June 2010
 - LSU 3201
 - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

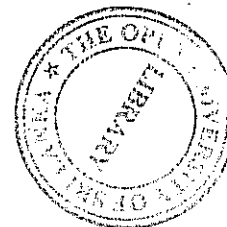


DATE: 30.06.2010

TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

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

Part A – Drama (25 marks)



Either

1. Disjointed communication between Ben and Gus is not an isolated theatrical device; rather it's a reflection of our modern media-driven society. Discuss.

Or

Would you agree that the play *The Dumb Waiter* deals with the issue of violence that results due to blind obedience to an authority? Discuss with reference to the play.

Part B – Poetry (25 marks)

Either

2. "The war poems of Sassoon and Owen show that the suffering of the front-line soldier is often misunderstood by civil society." Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with reference to four poems (two from each poet) of Owen and Sassoon.

Or

"A close reading of the war poems of Owen and Sassoon reveals that soldiers aren't the only participants in a war." Explore this statement with reference to four poems (two from each poet) of Owen and Sassoon.

Part C – Fiction (25 marks)

3. To what extent are Achebe's *A Man of the People* and Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man/ Cracking India* novels about a society and political climate that is in transition? Discuss in relation to **both** novels.
4. "Literature is the reflection of a particular society at a particular time." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss your answer with illustrations from **both** novels, Achebe's *A Man of the People* and Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man*.

For Repeat students ONLY:

"Literature is the reflection of a particular society at a particular time." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss your answer with illustrations from **both** novels, Divakaruni's *Sister of My Heart* and Achebe's *A Man of the People*.

Part D – Criticism (25 marks)

5. To what extent would you agree with the statement that Jasmine must avoid the limiting boundaries in society that seek to confine her in traditional and specific gendered roles, both in feudal India and multicultural America in order to re-invent herself? Discuss with reference to the text *Jasmine* by Bharati Mukherjee

For Repeat students ONLY:

To what extent would you agree with the statement that Anju and Sudha must avoid the limiting boundaries that seek to confine them in traditional and specific gendered roles, both in India and America in order to re-invent themselves? Discuss with reference to the text *Sister of My Heart* by Chitra Bannerjee Divakaruni.