



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

March 2006

FORMS OF FICTION

LSD 2204

DURATION

THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 25. 03. 2006

TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30pm.

ANSWER QUESTION (1), AND ANY TWO OTHERS, SELECTING ONE  
EACH FROM PART B AND PART C.

Part A

- 1) Identify two (02) of the following passages and comment on their significance to the text from which they are taken.

i) *Muni sat at the foot of the statue watching his two goats graze in the arid soil among the cactus and lantuna bushes. He looked at the sun, it had tilted westward no doubt, but it was not the time yet to go back home, if he went too early his wife would have no food for him.*

ii) *"Do you believe what you paint?" she asked in low tone.*  
*"Believe that tex? I believe in my own existence!"*  
*"But, said she tremulously, 'suppose your sin was not of your own seeking?"*

iii) *"Ay!" repeated the old woman, 'it seems but a week or two since he brought me his first wages. Ay – he was a good lad, Elizabeth, he was, in his way. I don't know why he got to be such a trouble, I don't. He was a happy lad at home, only full of spirits. But there's no mistake he's been a handful of trouble, he has! I hope the Lord'll spare him to mend his ways. I hope so, I hope so. You've had a sight O' trouble with him, Elizabeth, you have indeed. But he was a jolly enough lad wi' me, he was, I can assure you. I don't know how it is .....*

- iv) *But above the grey land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic – their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face, but, instead, from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a non-existent nose. Evidently some wild way of an oculist set them there to fatten his practice in the borough of Queens, and then sank down himself into eternal blindness, or forgot them and moved away. But his eyes dimmed a little by many paintless days, under sun and rain, brood on over the solemn dumping ground ”*

(40 marks)

### Part B

- 2) *‘In the Great Gatsby the story is related by an outsider who is not directly involved in the events that take place.’*

Would you say that this contributes to the effectiveness of the story?

Give reasons for your answer.

- 3) In the novel “ *Tess of the D’urbervilles*’ is Hardy more critical of men-made laws or nature? In what ways does he criticize these two opposing elements?

(30 marks)

### Part C

- 4) Discuss two short stories in your selection with special reference to the following.

- Use of symbols
- Theme
- Characterization

- 5) "Narayan's 'A Horse and Two Goats' is a story which emphasizes the communication gap that can exist not only between people belonging to two different cultures, but also among the people of the same culture".

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

(30 marks)