

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

- May 2009

FORMS OF FICTION

- LSD 2204

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)



022

DATE: 30. 05. 2009

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) Under the trees several pheasants lay about, their rich plumage dabbled with blood; some were dead, some feebly twitching a wing, some staring up at the sky, some pulsating quickly, some contorted, some stretched out—all of them writhing in agony except the fortunate ones whose tortures had ended during the night by the inability of nature to bear more. With the impulse of a soul who could feel for kindred sufferers as much as for herself, Tess's first thought was to put the still living birds out of their torture, and to this end with her own hands she broke the necks of as many as she could find, leaving them to lie where she had found them till the gamekeepers should come, as they probably would come, to look for them a second time. "Poor darlings—to suppose myself the most miserable being on earth in the sight o' such misery as yours!" she exclaimed, her tears running down as she killed the birds tenderly.

ii) *An idea came into his mind and gave him courage. He would say, alluding to Aunt Kate and Aunt Julia: Ladies and gentlemen, the generation which is now on the wane among us may have had its faults but for my part I think it had certain qualities of hospitality, of humour, of humanity, which the new*

and very serious and hypereducated generation that is growing up around us seems to lack. *Very good: that was one for Miss Ivors. What did he care that his aunts were only two ignorant old women?*

- iii) 'She never loved you, do you hear?' he cried. 'She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me. It was a terrible mistake, but in her heart she never loved any one except me!'
- iv) "Then she lighted a candle and went into the tiny room. The air was cold and damp, but she could not make a fire, there was no fireplace. She set down the candle and looked round. The candlelight glittered on the luster-glasses, on the two vases that held some of the pink chrysanthemums, and on the dark mahogany. There was a cold, deathly smell of chrysanthemums in the room. Elizabeth stood looking at the flowers. She turned away, and calculated whether there would be room to lay him down and to step around him. Then she fetched the old red tablecloth, and another old cloth, spreading them down to save her bit of carpet. She shivered leaving the parlor; so, from the dresser drawer she took a clean shirt and put it at the fire to air. All the time her mother-in-law was rocking herself in the chair and moaning".

(40 marks)

Part B

- 2) Would you say that the setting in Hemingway's short story *Hills Like White Elephants* is symbolic of the two characters and their lives?
- 3) 'Once a victim, always a victim, that's the law'; in her relations with Angel and Alec, Tess is the victim of her own conscience more than of male cruelty and censure. Do you agree? Discuss your answer with illustrations from the Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

(30 marks)

Part C

- 4) Discuss the use of irony in Narayan's *A Horse and Two Goats*.
- 5) "Fitzgerald, through his novel *The Great Gatsby* does not idealize the main character, yet he earns our sympathy." Discuss with examples from the novel.

(30 marks)