

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH
 FINAL EXAMINATION
 THE NOVEL AND THE SHORT STORY
 DURATION

- LEVEL 3
 - June 2010
 - LSD 1205
 - THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 06. 06. 2010

TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30 pm.

ANSWER QUESTION 01 AND TWO OTHERS, SELECTING ONE FROM PART B AND ONE FROM PART C .

QUESTIONS THAT ARE BASED ON CHARLES DICKEN'S NOVEL GREAT EXPECTATIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED BY REPEAT STUDENTS ONLY.

Part A

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

a) *"Life is for the strong, to be lived by the strong, and if need be, taken by the strong. The weak of the world were put here to give the strong pleasure. I am strong. Why should I not use my gift? If I wish to hunt, why should I not? I hunt the scum of the earth - sailors from tramp ships - lascars, blacks, Chinese, whites, mongrels - a thoroughbred horse or hound is worth more than a score of them."*

b) *"I want you to know" she told the girls in a low authoritative voice so different from the shrill tone she normally used " . . . that love is a very special magical sort of thing. I wish each and every one of you may experience it one day." Having made this enigmatic statement she beamed on them like one who had been favoured by a particularly bountiful goddess and was magnanimously invoking the same good fortune on them.*

- c) *'Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance. If the dispositions of the parties are ever so well known to each other, or ever so similar before-hand, it does not advance their felicity in the least. They always continue to grow sufficiently unlike afterwards to have their share of vexation; and it is better to know as little as possible of the defects of the person with whom you are to pass your life.'*
- d) *"Jane Murdstone," said her brother, "have the goodness not to interrupt me. This unhappy boy, Miss Trotwood, has been the occasion of much domestic trouble and uneasiness; both during the lifetime of my late dear wife, and since. He has a sullen rebellious spirit; a violent tempter; and an untoward intractable disposition."*
- e) *"He was awfully cold, to be sure. I half expected to see him drop down before my face and die of deadly cold. His eyes looked awfully hungry, too, that when I handed him the file and he laid it down on the grass, it occurred to me he would have tried to eat it, if he had not seen my bundle."*

(40 marks)

Part B

2. One of the common threads that runs through Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* is the abuse of power. Discuss this with reference to Mr. Murdstone and Uriah Heep.

Pip undergoes suffering to arrive at maturity. Discuss this statement with reference to *Great Expectations*.

Discuss how material wealth affects marriage in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

(30 marks)

Part C

In 'The Moment Before the Gun went off' the author skilfully criticises the apartheid regime in South Africa while appearing to defend it..

A good short story should present characters in action as a brief but effective work of fiction which communicates something of moral value. Discuss this statement in relation to the short stories that you have studied.

(30 marks)