



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION	-	September 2017
INTRODUCTION TO POETRY	-	LSD1210
DURATION	-	THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 28.09.2017 TIME: 09.30 pm. - 12.30 pm

ANSWER PART A, PART B, AND ONE FROM PART C.

Part A

1. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below.

Short answers not exceeding 01 paragraph are expected.

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- 1) How is aunt Jennifer portrayed in the poem? Give a brief description of the picture of her created by the poet. (08 marks)

- 2) What is the significance of the following lines?

"The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand."

(07 marks)

3) What do the tigers stand for in the poem? Why has the poet included them in the poem?

(07 marks)

4) What is the significance of the last verse? What is the poet trying to say?

(08 marks)

Part B

2. Comment on two of the following extracts.

a) Place the passage in context.

b) Comment on the important elements in the extract.

c) Comment on the significance of the extract to the poem as a whole.

i) "I can still hear
The ironed heel – its echoing thud –
And still can taste the cold-winter-taste
Of charred-wood-midnight-fear..."

ii) "Summer is fading:
The leaves fall in ones and twos
From trees bordering
The new recreation ground.
In the hollows of afternoons
Young mothers assemble ..."

iii) "I wandered lonely as a –
Lonely as a cloud when –
Soft-boiled egg, yes my dear,
As usual, three minutes –
As a cloud which floats –
Look, I said I'll cook it, ----."

- iv) “if I touch –
near the fire
the impalpable ash
or the wrinkled body of the log,
everything carries me to you,
as if everything that exists,
aromas, light, metals,
were little boats
that sail
toward those isles of yours that wait
for me.”

(30 marks)

Part C

3. Can meaningful and pleasurable love poetry emerge out of a painful or disappointing experience? Discuss with reference to the poems you have studied.
4. “Women face numerous challenges in their daily existence that are unique to womanhood.”
Discuss this statement with reference to any 02 poems in your syllabus.

(40 marks)