THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

BA IN ENGLISH & ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING - LEVEL 5

FINAL EXAMINATION - December 2012

LITERATURE & SOCIETY - LSU 3201

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 12. 12. 2012 TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30 pm.

ANSWER FOUR (04) QUESTIONS IN TOTAL, CHOOSING ONE EACH FROM PARTS A, B, C AND D.

Part A – Drama (25 marks)

1. "Pinter's play '*The Dumb Waiter*' could be interpreted as a play that concerns itself with verbal violence." Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

2. "In '*The Dumb Waiter*' Ben comes across as a character who exhibits bland confidence. However, we, the audience, know that his confidence is shaky." Discuss this statement with close reference to the play.

Part B – Poetry (25 marks)

3. "Wilfred Owen's war poems use suffering as their main thesis and thereby his poems tend to disrupt any other meaning associated with war". Discuss with close reference to at least three (03) poems you have studied.

4. A surface reading of Siegfried Sassoon's war poems reveal criticism aimed at authorities who nurture, promote and administer the war. Identify two such authorities and demonstrate how Sassoon uses his poems to project his anger and criticism towards them. Use at least three (03) poems for the given purpose.

5. "Both Achebe and Sidhwa, in their books *A Man of the People* and *Ice Candy Man,* respectively, attempt to represent the creation of a new hegemonic group in the postcolonial era in which they write." Discuss this statement in relation to BOTH texts, citing at least three (03) examples from EACH text to support your answer.

6. How is subalternity represented by the Non-Muslim in Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man* and by the non-VIP classes in Achebe's *A Man of the People?* Identify at least one subaltern figure in each text and discuss the above statement in relation to BOTH texts, citing at least two (02) examples from EACH text to support your answer.

Part C – Fiction (25 marks)

7. How far would you agree with the statement that Bharati Mukherjee's ***Jasmine*** depicts the struggle between Jasmine's predicted fate and her desire to escape and transform it?

8. Critically analyze the characters of Du and Damell in Bharati Mukherjee's ***Jasmine***.