



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION - **September 2025**
INTRODUCTION TO POETRY - **LED3510/LSD1210**
DURATION - **THREE HOURS (03 hours)**

DATE: 14.09.2025

TIME: 01.30 pm. - 04.30 pm

Index No:

Question No:		Marks Obtained	Maximum
Part A	1	20
Part B	2	30
Part C	3	50
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Total			100
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Name of Examiner :

Signature of Examiner :

**ANSWER THE QUESTION IN PART A, TWO (02) QUESTIONS FROM
PART B AND TWO (02) QUESTIONS FROM PART C.**

PART A

1. Read the poem given below and answer **all** the questions.

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness,
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

- 1) What can you say about the narrator as a person, based on how she/he talks about herself and the trees?
(3 marks)

- 2) The poem uses light as an image. What does light usually stand for, and how is it used in this poem?
(4 marks)

- 3) The poet repeats words like “call” and “light”. What is the impact of this repetition on the feeling of the poem?
(4 marks)

- 4) What advice does the poet give in the last stanza?
(4 marks)

- 5) The poem makes trees seem almost human, as if they can speak and give wisdom. Does it change the way you think about the relationship between humans and nature? If so, how?
(5 marks)

PART B

Answer the following questions using ANY TWO of the following poem extracts (i, ii, iii, or iv) as your focus.

a) Place the passage in context.

b) Comment on the important poetic elements in the extract.

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

i). Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
 And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
 In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

ii). I shall be telling this with a sigh
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
 I took the one less travelled by,
 And that has made all the difference.

iii). His jointed tongue that lies beneath
 A hundred curious rows of teeth;
 His seven tufted tails with lots
 Of lovely pink and purple spots,

On each of which a pattern stands,
Composed of forty separate bands;
His eyebrows of a tender green;

- (iv). You are brave to be there.
Solicitous girlfriends-
lawyers-
told me Not to Go.
So, hiding away
from lecherous glances
(surmising, behind hands over mouths)
and out of sight of
invasive State,
I have time to recall
some good times we had.

(30 Marks)

PART C

Answer any **TWO** of the following questions

3. Discuss how Alice Walker and Pablo Neruda address the themes of universality of life, loss and death in their poems “**Poem at Thirty Nine**” and “**A Dog has died**”.
4. Critically examine how the themes of idealized heroism, nationhood and futility of war have been addressed in three poems of your choice.
5. Using **TWO (02)** poems you studied under ‘women’s poetry’, discuss attitudes women have towards societal expectations and gender norms.
6. Using **TWO (02)** poems, analyze how poets use poetic techniques to bring out the theme of nature. Use adequate examples to support your answer.
7. According to Khalil Gibran, “poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder.” Discuss how true this statement is, with reference to at least **TWO (02)** poems from your syllabus.

(50 Marks)