

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH



FINAL EXAMINATION - March 2008
INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE - LSC 3204
DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 01.03.2008

TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN PART A, AND 03 OTHERS, SELECTING ONE EACH FROM PARTS B, C AND D.

Part A



- 1) a) Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

*do you see them?
there-there, in the bins...
spreading filth, earning filth... Why are they there?
they are biding their time.
Yes. They are biding their time,
preparing for the day that will come
when the Flies will be supreme.
for when men are dead of heat and dust
the flies will be supreme
that is why they live on .. multiplying...
they are preparing, watching, waiting,
waiting for the finger that will press the button.
Waiting for the buildings that will topple
waiting for the dust that will kill...
and the Flies will be supreme
and the flies will be supreme*

- i) Who does 'them' refer to in the 1st line?
(02 marks)
- ii) What does the poet see 'them' doing?
(04 marks)
- iii) What are they waiting for?
(04 marks)
- iv) What is the technique of sound used by the poet to make the poem successful?
Give examples
(04 marks)
- b) Write a short character sketch of either Boxer or Squealer as portrayed in George Orwell's novel 'Animal Farm'.
(13 marks)
- c) What was the evidence that the women stumble upon and why do they decide to hide it in the play 'Trifles' written by Susan Glaspell.
(13 marks)

Part B (Select only one question)

- 2) Read the following poem and answer the questions below.

NOBODY'S CHILD

*I was slowly passing an orphan's home one day,
And stopped there for a moment just to watch the children play.
Alone a boy was standing and when I asked him why
He turned with eyes that could not see and he began to cry.*

I'm nobody's child; I'm nobody's child

*I'm like a flower just growing wild
No mommy's kisses and no daday's smile
Nobody wants me I'm nobody's child.*

*People come for children and take them for their own
But they all seem to pass me by and I'm left alone
I know they would like to take me but when they see I'm blind
They always take some other and I am left behind.*

*No mother's arms to hold me or soothe me when I cry
Sometimes it gets so lonely here I wish that I could die
I'd walk the streets of heaven where all the blind can see
And just like all the other kids there 'd be a home for me.*

- i) How did the poet meet the boy?
(04 marks)
- ii) What does the boy say?
(04 marks)
- iii) Where does the boy wish to be?
(04 marks)
- iv) What does the boy feel? Quote a line from the poem that conveys this feeling.
(04 marks)
- v) Comment on the techniques associated with sound in 'Nobody's Child'.
(04 marks)



- 3) Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions given below.

*Anger lay by me all night long.
His breath was hot upon my brow
He told me of my burning wrong
All night he talked and would not go*

*He stood by me all through the day
Struck from my hand the book the pen
He said 'Hear first what I've to say.
And sing if you've the heart to, then'*

*And can I cast him from my couch?
And can I lock him from my room?
Ah no, his honest words are such
That he's my true – lord and my doom*

- i) What is the poem about?
(05 marks)
- ii) What message do you think does the poet want to convey through this poem?
(05 marks)
- iii) Comment on the rhyming scheme of the poem?
(05 marks)
- iv) Identify the technique associated with meaning and discuss how it makes the poem effective.
(05 marks)

Part C (Select only one question)

- 4) Compare and contrast characters of Napoleon and Snowball. What techniques do they use in their struggle for power?
- 5) Discuss the main themes in George Orwell's novel 'The Animal Farm'. Support your answer with reference to the text.

(20 marks)

Part D (Select only one question)

- 6) "Well, women are used to worrying over trifles"
Discuss how the above quote reflects ideas that are central to Susan Glaspell's play 'Trifles'.
- 7) Susan Glaspell's play 'Trifles' reflects the early 20th century American society. Do you think the issues dealt within the play are relevant to present day Sri Lanka? Give reasons for your answer.

(20 marks)

