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Sri Lanka Department of Examinations

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கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர (சாதாரண தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2016 டிசம்பர்
General Certificate of Education (Ord. Level) Examination, December 2016

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இலக்கிய நயம் ஆங்கிலம்
Appreciation of English Literary Texts

පැය තුනයි
மூன்று மணித்தியாலம்
Three hours

Note: Answer five questions only.

* Answer question 1 and four others, selecting one from each section - POETRY, DRAMA, PROSE and FICTION.

Part I

1. Section A – Answer all questions.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions given below them:

- (i) "The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls,
He watches from his mountain walls"
(a) From where are these lines taken? Who wrote them?
(b) Who is referred to as 'he' in the second line? Where is he at this moment?
(c) Why does the sea crawl beneath him? (05 marks)
- (ii) "We'll sweat no more on scythe and rake,
My bloody hands and I"
(a) In which work do these lines appear? Who is the poet?
(b) Who are referred to as 'we'? What will they not do?
(c) Why does the speaker describe his hands as bloody? (05 marks)
- (iii) "... the chamberlain's nephew has sent me some real jewels and everybody knows
that jewels cost more than flowers."
(a) From which text is this extract taken? Who wrote it?
(b) Who speaks these words? To whom are they spoken?
(c) What is the attitude to love as reflected in these words? (05 marks)
- (iv) "It is ok if I die because it is my job and I am ready for it. But you are a hero
and if you were to die it would be a great loss for the country."
(a) From which text is this extract taken? Who wrote it?
(b) Who speaks these words? To whom are they spoken?
(c) What is the speaker's feeling towards the person he speaks to? (05 marks)
- (v) "I wished I might have lived with you forever, setting up our world in the middle
of this field, playing with children and working on the farm."
(a) From which work is this extract taken? Who wrote it?
(b) Who is the speaker? To whom are the words spoken?
(c) What is the attitude to life reflected in these words? (05 marks)
- (vi) "I absolutely like her. Absolutely! Even though her cheeks are dimpled, I like her.
I am almost ready to let the debt go."
(a) Name the work from which this extract is taken. Who wrote it?
(b) Who is the speaker? About whom does he speak?
(c) Name at least one literary device used in the extract. What effect does it create? (05 marks)

[see page two]

Section B – Answer questions in either (a), (b) or (c).**Either**

(a) Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end:

" I will, I will indeed - nor ever touch another, though heaven send it and an archangel fetch it. No - I am blind for their sake - I see nothing. I will say thou didst break in and wreck the prisoner from my hands by force. It is but a crazy, ancient door - I will batter it down myself betwixt midnight and the morning."

- (i) What is the situation given in the passage? Who is the speaker? (02 marks)
- (ii) What does the speaker promise to do? (02 marks)
- (iii) Explain the following expressions:
 - (a) blind for my sake
 - (b) batter it down (02 marks)
- (iv) What outstanding feature of the society is reflected through this character? (04 marks)

Or

(b) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"And then came the bark; the sharp clipped aristocratic bark, and with it came Tony, crashing through Mrs. Jayasingha with the custard pudding in the dessert cup held delicately in one hand and the dessert spoon suspended somewhere between my mouth and her ample bosom, and uncle Ronald opening and closing the folds of the accordion in an arc just below his chin"

- (i) What is the situation given in the passage? Where does it take place? (02 marks)
- (ii) Why was Tony excited? (02 marks)
- (iii) Write the meanings of the following words:
 - (a) delicately
 - (b) suspended (02 marks)
- (iv) What does this passage reveal about the relationship between Tony and the narrator? (04 marks)

Or

(c) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"Mali proved unusually communicative from across the seas, and although at times he sounded brusque, disconnected, or impersonal, he generalized a good deal about the civilization in which he found himself. The blue airmail letters grew into a file. If only Mali had taken the precaution of leaving a proper margin to his epistles, Jagan would have bound them into a neat little volume at Truth Printing; surely Nataraj would have realized its importance and obliged him with a speedy execution. Jagan stuffed his jibba pocket with the letters and pulled them out for choice reading of passages to all and sundry, mostly to his cousin, who, as ever, remained an uncomplaining listener. Gradually his reading of the Bhagavad Gita was replaced by the blue airmail letters."

- (i) What is the situation given in the passage? When does it take place? (02marks)
- (ii) Why couldn't Jagan bind the letters into a neat little volume? (02marks)
- (iii) Write the meanings of the following expressions:
 - (a) epistles
 - (b) speedy execution (02marks)
- (iv) What aspects of Jagan's character are revealed by the passage? (04 marks)

[see page three

Part II**POETRY***(Answer one question only)*

2. Examine, by providing examples from the poem, how John Keats admires the service and the beauty of the Nile in **To the Nile**.
3. "Stephen Crane ironically portrays the brutality caused by war." Comment on this statement with reference to the poem, **War is Kind**.
4. Maya Angelou conveys the deprivation of freedom in **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**. Discuss with reference to the poem.
5. Johnson Agard's **The Clown's Wife** represents the difference between the personal and professional lives of many people. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
6. "Excessive, worthless talking may ruin people." This idea is portrayed through humour in Edward Lowbury's **The Huntsman**. Discuss.

*(15 marks)***DRAMA***(Answer one question only)*

7. "**Twilight of a Crane** shows how human beings are caught between their desire for money and passion for love." Do you agree? Discuss, referring to the play.
8. Discuss the significance of the title of the play, **The Bear**, referring to the events of the play.

*(15 marks)***PROSE***(Answer one question only)*

9. Write an analysis of the aunt's character in **The Lumber Room**, discussing her contribution to the central theme of the short story.
10. "Love is not half as useful as logic." Do you agree? Discuss in relation to **The Nightingale and the Rose**.
11. "**The Lahore Attack** depicts the speaker's pride and admiration for his own culture and country." Discuss.
12. "The narrator in **Wave** reacts to the unexpected tragedy instinctively, rather than with reason." Comment on this statement in relation to the extract set for your study.

(15 marks)

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FICTION*(Answer one question only)*

13. What, according to your point of view, is the central theme of **The Prince and the Pauper**? Discuss with detailed reference to the novel.
14. "The conflict between tradition and modernity is symbolized through the relationship between Jagan and Mali in **The Vendor of Sweets**." Discuss referring to the events of the novel.
15. "Above all, **Bringing Tony Home** represents the human-animal bond and the relationships between people and their pets." Comment on this statement.

(15 marks)
