

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Third Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream) Semester 2, 2018

English Studies: Theory and Practice

ENG 3253 Literature in Practice: Autobiographical Writing

Two Hours

Answer 02 questions, choosing one from Part A and one from Part B

Part A

Either

1. Write an essay about how autobiographical writing takes place on social media platforms (e.g. Facebook/ Twitter) amongst your family and friends. How do we create identities for ourselves as a result of the language, images and metaphors used on these platforms?

Or

2. Write an account about how a messaging platform (e.g. WhatsApp/Viber/Facebook Messenger) is used for autobiographical writing. You may use examples from your own experience, as well as from your family and friends. Do you believe that this writing reflects 'who' one 'really' is?

Or

3. Not all people use social media for their autobiographical writing. Some prefer 'traditional' forms like handwritten letters and recipes. Drawing on examples from your own and your friends' and family's experiences, comment on the merits of such 'traditional' forms of autobiographical writing.

Part B

Either

4. Write an account of how you would use an autobiographical comic book format to tell your life story. You may draw examples from Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* in support of your answer.

Or

5. Autobiographical scholarship has been critical of the idea that autobiographical writing focuses on the unique individual and his or her attempt to achieve self-knowledge. They argue that the concept of identity takes shape "within collectivities" such as family histories. Write an account of your family, focusing on any **two** themes (e.g. your family's work history and educational history) to show how you would write your life in relation to the "family's collective past".

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX