

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

First Year Examination in Arts, (English), Semester 2, 2016/ 17

ENG 1202 – Introduction to Poetry and Poetry Criticism

TWO HOURS

Open Book Examination

Answer Part A and any TWO questions from Part B.

PART A

1. Write a critical appreciation of the following poem, paying attention to the poet's theme, tone and technique.

**Head of English**

Today we have a poet in the class.  
A real live poet with a published book.  
Notice the inkstained fingers, girls. Perhaps  
we're going to witness verse hot from the press.  
Who knows. Please show your appreciation  
by clapping. Not too loud. Now

sit up straight and listen. Remember  
the lesson on assonance, for not all poems,  
sadly, rhyme these days. Still. Never mind.  
Whispering's, as always, out of bounds –  
but do feel free to raise some questions.  
After all, we're paying forty pounds.

Right. That's enough from me. On with the Muse.  
Open a window at the back. We don't  
Want winds of change about the place.  
Take notes, but don't write reams. Just an essay  
on the poet's themes. Fine. Off we go.  
Convince us that there's something we don't know.

PTO

Well. Really. Run along now girls. I'm sure  
that gave an insight to an outside view.  
Applause will do. Thank you  
very much for coming here today. Lunch  
in the hall? Do hang about. Unfortunately  
I have to rush. Tracey will show you out.

### PART B

2. Discuss how Milton's *On His Blindness* defines the notion of serving God, particularly in relation to worldly and spiritual interpretations of achievement.
3. "*Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* shows the active imagination of the narrator, especially with regard to the past lives of the dead". Comment, making close reference to the poem.
4. What differences do you see in how the snake is viewed by the narrators of Dickinson's *Narrow Fellow in the Grass* and Lawrence's *Snake*?
5. Analyse the narrator's approach to change in either Yeats' *The Second Coming* or Eliot's *Journey of the Magi*.
6. Heaney once said, "I think in order to write, you have to have some kind of excitement,...something that starts words moving forward. For me that always involved some kind of memory." Discuss to what extent this is reflected in any TWO of Heaney's poems that you have studied.
7. According to Briggs and Monaco (1990), "A poetic metaphor is the union of unlikely things...such that the mind discovers unexpected relationships and comes upon insight." Discuss the metaphors used by Vivimarie VanderPoorten in any TWO poems from your selection, in relation to this statement.
8. It has been said of Keats that, had he lived longer, he would have written some of the best poetry in the English language. Would you say the same of Destry Muller, in terms of Sri Lankan poetry? Explain why, making close reference to the two poems you have studied.

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