

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester I, 2017/2018

ENG 3162 – Thematic Approaches to the Modern Novel

Two Hours

Answer TWO questions, choosing ONE from EACH PART

PART A

EITHER

1. "...in Orwell's dehumanized world it is not only the psychic environment that oppresses the individual but the physical environment as well" (Bernstein, 1985). Discuss this statement in relation to George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Support your answer with detailed reference to the text.

OR

2. "He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past" (Orwell, 1949). Critically analyse the control of history and memory in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in relation to the above quotation.

PART B

EITHER

3. In *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe seeks to confront and discredit the discourse of colonialism which has treated Africa as nothing more than "the other world", the antithesis of Europe and therefore of civilization." Do you agree? Support your answer with detailed reference to the text.

OR

4. Obi Wali states that "until these writers and their Western midwives accept the fact that any true African literature must be written in African languages, they would be merely pursuing a dead end, which can only lead to sterility, uncreativity and frustration." Discuss this statement with reference to Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

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