

**University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Faculty of Arts**

**Second Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream)**

**English Studies: Theory and Practice, Semester 1, 2016/17**

**ENG 2134 – Rhetoric and Style**

**Two Hours**

**Answer ALL THREE questions.**

1. Based on an imagined incident revolving around a middle-aged woman from a city area who is / was unmarried, employed, and owns / owned a considerable amount of property in Colombo, write either a national news article **OR** a feature article that would appear in a newspaper. Limit your article to 750 words.
  
2. The argument below consists of four premises and a conclusion. However, the order in which the four premises and conclusion appear has been jumbled. Do the following:
  - a. Correct the order so that the four premises and conclusion form a logical argument.
  - b. Point out the argument's weaknesses.
  - c. Suggest briefly how the argument could be improved.

**Argument**

- i. *Eventually girls and boys have to learn to live and work together.*
- ii. *In many current education systems there are separate schools for boys and girls.*
- iii. *Moreover, having separate schools for boys and girls prevents the students of these schools from getting accustomed to living together.*
- iv. *There should be no separate schools for boys and girls.*
- v. *This gender division in education systems is pointless because it does not serve any purpose.*

P. T. O.

3. Analyse the rhetorical strategies in the following poem. Note that your analysis **must** include a discussion of the poem's overall effectiveness in terms of purpose and audience.

*An Alphabet song – 1980-2009*

(repeating is necessary lest we forget)

A is for Ambush  
B is for bomb  
C is for Checkpoints you have to get past  
D is for Damage  
E is for Elephant Pass  
F is for firearms that injure, sometimes very fast  
G is for guns  
H is for hostilities  
I is for IDP – an acronym that lasts  
J is for Jaipur foot  
K is for kamikaze  
L is for landmines in places vast  
M is for mediators and also for military  
N is for negotiations, null and void  
O is for obituary and also for O positive urgently needed  
P is for peace-talks and also for patriots  
Q is for quelling and also for quandary  
R is for retaliation, and always for refugee  
S is for suicide bombers who always succumb  
T is for tyranny, and also for terrorist  
U is for unsafe and sometimes for uncertainty  
V is for victory with a pinch of salt (and maybe a slice of lime)  
W is for white vans that sometimes pass by  
X and Y are for the statistics needed  
for equations of death  
Z is for zero civilian casualties  
But none of these matter  
because W is for war  
And a means to an end.

*Vivimarie VanderPoorten*

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