

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2016/2017

ENG 3158 - Sri Lankan English Studies (Old Syllabus)

Two Hours

Answer **THREE** questions, choosing **ONE** from each part

PART A

**EITHER**

1. There has been much critical contention regarding the supposed limitations of the Sri Lankan writer in English to address the concerns of social groups outside of the country's English speaking minority. Comment on this issue with reference to Sarachchandra's *Curfew and a Full Moon*.

**OR**

2. How does Sarachchandra's *Curfew and a Full Moon* engage with the intersections of class, politics and violence? Discuss with close reference to the text.

PART B

**EITHER**

3. Critically discuss the engagement with, and use of religion, belief and the supernatural in Lal Medawattegedera's *Playing Pillow Politics at MGK*.

**OR**

4. Lal Medawattegedera's *Playing Pillow Politics at MGK* contains multiple stories of various characters brought together and presented by the central narrator Deshan. Examine the ways in which these stories of individuals construct a broader image of the post-war nation, its economy and politics.

PART C

**EITHER**

5. Discussing attitudes to Sri Lankan English, Mendis & Rambukwella (2010) argue that "a situation of 'linguistic schizophrenia' [...], not unusual with postcolonial Englishes, [still] exists to some extent in Sri Lanka". Do you agree? Discuss, drawing on everyday examples and research studies to support your stance.

**OR**

6. 'The acceptance and recognition of a variety of English is, in itself, a political act'. Discuss the politics of acceptance/rejection with regard to Sri Lankan English, paying attention to gatekeeping through 'standardizing' language. Draw on at least **THREE (03)** studies to substantiate your discussion.

\*\*\*\*\*