

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

First Year Examination in Arts, (English), Semester 2, 2015/16

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.

LEAVES COMPARED WITH FLOWERS

A tree's leaves may be ever so good,
So may its bark, so may its wood;
But unless you put the right thing to its root
It never will show much flower or fruit.

Some giant trees have bloom so small
They might as well have nothing at all.
Late in life I have come on fern.
Now lichens are due to have their turn.

I bade men tell me which in brief,
Which is fairer, flower or leaf.
They did not have the wit to say,
Leaves by night and flowers by day.

Leaves and bark, leaves and bark,
To lean against and hear in the dark.
Petals I may have once pursued.
Leaves are all my darker mood.

Robert Frost

PART B

2. "Poetic metaphor is the union of unlike things [...] such that the mind discovers unexpected relationships and comes upon insight." (Briggs and Monaco 3-4). Do you agree? Discuss in relation to metaphors found in **at least three** poems in your selection.
3. Discuss Chaucer's keen eye for description in the first 34 lines of his *General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*.
4. "Both Wyatt's *Whoso List to Hunt* and Milton's *On His Blindness* discuss the element of waiting. However, while Wyatt's narrator indicates a sense of hopelessness overall, Milton's sonnet evinces a glimmer of hope for the narrator". Do you agree? Discuss.
5. Both Yeats' "The Second Coming" and Eliot's "Journey of the Magi" focus on a certain birth and death. Compare and contrast the two births and deaths, with particular focus on how they affect the respective narrators.
6. "Seamus Heaney's poems seamlessly connect the past with the present through his vivid recollections of childhood memories." Discuss this statement in relation to **at least three** of the poems in your selection.
7. While Maya Angelou's poems "Men" and "Phenomenal Woman" both raise issues of gender, one can argue that the focus shifts from men to women across the two poems. Do you agree? Explain with close reference to the poems.
8. In your opinion, can Vivimarie Vanderpoorten be called a "Sri Lankan" poet? Explain why or why not, making close reference to the poems you have studied.
