

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 4, Semester 2, 2016/17

ENG 4271 – John Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Two Hours

Answer **two** questions.

1. In what ways does Milton problematize his own stated aim in *Paradise Lost* – to “justify the ways of God to men” (Book 1, Line 26)? Discuss with detailed reference to the text.
2. “[F]ree states, like free persons, are thus defined by their capacity for self-government.” With reference to this quotation, discuss the complexity of the political rhetoric of self-government in Milton’s socio-cultural moment and the nature of its creative expression in *Paradise Lost*.
3. “In the rhetoric of synaesthesia that marks the scenes of temptation and fall, seeing emerges as the key sense.” Discuss, with detailed reference to *Paradise Lost*, the implications of Milton’s rewriting of the Genesis tradition, in which he positions sin in terms of ‘seeing’, rather than eating.
4. “Otherness positions the reader.” With reference to this statement, how do you understand different reader positions in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*?
5. Within the discourses of discipline and punishment in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, would you agree that surveillance could be read as a means of both establishing and accessing knowledge and power? Discuss with detailed reference to the text.

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