

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Second Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream), Semester 1, 2017/2018

English Studies: Theory and Practice

ENG 2116 – History of the English Language

Two Hours

Answer **TWO** (02) questions, choosing one from each part.

Part A

1. “The awakening of nationalism of the Britons paved the way to the rise of the English language.” Discuss this statement with reference to the changes in linguistic characteristics and the wider social context in which English evolved from the latter part of the Middle English period to the Early Modern English period.
2. Describe the process of the Great Vowel Shift (GVS). Locate the GVS within the larger socio-political context of the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries.

Part B

3. In his article on strategies of the marginalized, Canagarajah (2000) discusses the ways in which the colonized people utilized the language of the colonizer to project their own messages. Discuss the influence of these strategies in enriching the English language.
4. “Colonization was a major factor in shaping the English language.” Evaluate this statement with reference to at least **TWO** linguistic consequences of colonization.
