

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 3252 – Studies in Contemporary South Asian Literature

Two Hours

Answer THREE (03) questions, choosing one from each Part.

PART A

1. Creative narratives that document stories of violence can evoke compassion, heighten awareness, and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences. To what extent does this statement apply to *Seam*? Discuss.
2. Critically analyse Tarfia Faizullah's decision to provide two parallel sections in *Seam*, each consisting of snippets from interviews with Birangona women, and her own notes.

PART B

3. Discuss the themes of abduction and forced disappearances in relation to a selection of up to three poems on civil conflicts in Sri Lanka.
4. Using up to three poems from those you have studied, analyse how the concept of identity is interrogated and deconstructed against a backdrop of ethnic conflict.

PART C

5. Critically review the novel *Stories* by Charulatha Abeysekera Thewarathanthri, with reference to up to two themes.
6. Argue for or against the view that *Stories* is a highly contrived text that on the one hand resorts to tokenism in the way that it represents the civil war/ethnic conflict and on the other eroticizes the Sri Lankan context, making detailed reference to the text.
