



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION  
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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - DECEMBER 2017  
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EG 1 - LANGUAGE AND DRAMA

Answer Question **SIX** and **THREE** other questions, selecting at least **ONE** each from **PARTS A** and **B**.

*PART A: Language*

1. Answer (i) and (ii) on the basis of the following sentence:

The Supreme Court judge parked her car in front of the channeling centre and visited the milk bar to buy yoghurt.

- i. Transcribe the sentence to represent its Sri Lankan English articulation.
- ii. Provide a phonetic description of the sounds underlined. In the case of each underlined sound, (a) identify the correct label [e.g. voiceless labiodental fricative; half-open back vowel] and (b) describe the steps involved in the articulation of the sound in their correct order.

2. Describe the grammatical differences between the two sentences in any 5 of the sentence pairs given below. You are expected to refer to as many of the following notions as may be applicable, in your descriptions: tense, time, aspect, and modality.

- i. "I am reading now" and "I have been reading for thirty minutes"
- ii. "Rani wrote the letter yesterday" and "Rani will write the letter tomorrow"
- iii. "You should go for a walk" and "You may go for a walk"
- iv. "She has been a member of the club for 10 years" and "She had been a member of the club for 10 years by the time she migrated to London"
- v. "I ride the bicycle to Kandy every day" and "I will ride the bicycle to Kandy tomorrow"
- vi. "Dasun has visited Galle already" and "Dasun will have visited Galle by 2020"

3. Identify the word-class/part-of-speech of each of the underlined words in the following passage, and say what criteria you used in determining its word-class/part-of-speech.

I go for a (i) run around the lake every morning. Many of my friends join me in this activity. We (ii) run for half an hour and then take a little rest. We all wear (iii)



running shoes, as they make (iv) running all the more enjoyable. Running shoes are rather (v) light, so they are easy to use. They come with a sensor that is sensitive to (vi) light, and every time the sensor catches sun light, the shoe makes a beep sound. We discuss different topics as we

take a (vii) rest, and the topic for yesterday was (viii) environmental pollution. Many were of the (ix) view that we should not take the problem of environmental pollution (x) lightly.

4. Describe, using examples, how the words that English has “borrowed” from other languages in the past have made English a stronger and more resourceful language.
5. “Compared to Standard British English, Sri Lankan English is better suited to handle realities that are uniquely Sri Lankan.” Do you agree? Discuss using examples.

#### ***PART B: Drama***

6. Comment on the significance of any THREE of the following extracts in the texts from which they are taken.
  - a. Wish I knew what went on in that head of hers. Just once she stayed out all night, once in all those years. Afterwards she went around like before, except she worked harder. Couldn't get her to tell what had happened. Worried me quite a while, that did.
  - b. Break an hour's promise in love? He that will divide a minute into a thousand parts and break but a part of the thousand part of a minute in the affairs of love, it may be said of him that Cupid hath clapped him o' th' shoulder, but I'll warrant him heart-whole.
  - c. What were you trying to do? Make sense out of things? Bring order? The old pigeonhole bit? Well, that's easy; I'll tell you. I live in a four-storey brownstone rooming-house on the upper West Side between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. I live on the top floor; rear; west. It's a laughably small room, and one of my walls is made of beaverboard; this beaverboard separates my room from another laughably small room, so I assume that the two rooms were once one room, a small room, but not necessarily laughable. The room beyond my beaver board wall is occupied by a coloured queen who always keeps his door open; well, not always but always when he's plucking his eyebrows, which he does with Buddhist concentration. This coloured queen has rotten teeth, which is rare, and he has a Japanese kimono, which is also pretty rare; and he wears this kimono to and from the john in the hall, which is pretty frequent. I mean, he goes to the john a lot. He never bothers me, and never brings anyone up to his room. All he does is pluck his eyebrows, wear his kimono and go to the john. Now, the two front rooms on my floor are a little larger, I guess; but they're pretty small, too. There's a Puerto Rican



family in one of them, a husband, a wife, and some kids; I don't know how many. These people entertain a lot. And in the other front room, there's somebody living there, but I don't know who it is. I've never seen who it is. Never. Never ever.

d. Give me the map there.—Know that we have divided  
In three our kingdom, and 'tis our fast intent  
To shake all cares and business from our age,  
Conferring them on younger strengths while we  
Unburdened crawl toward death.—Our son of Cornwall,  
And you, our no less loving son of Albany,  
We have this hour a constant will to publish  
Our daughters' several dowers, that future strife  
May be prevented now.  
The two great princes, France and Burgundy,  
Great rivals in our youngest daughter's love,  
Long in our court have made their amorous sojourn,  
And here are to be answered.

e. Gently, pray: they have a great deal to do with  
it. I am resolved that my daughter shall approach  
no circle in which she would not be received with  
the full consideration to which her education and her  
breeding (here his self-control slips a little) — I say,  
her breeding — entitle her. . . .

And now, Dr. Trench, since you have acted handsomely, you shall have no cause to complain of me. There shall be no difficulty about money. I don't ask you whether you have a hundred a year or ten thousand : I will guarantee all that. But I must have a guarantee on my side that she will be received on equal terms by your family.

7. "As you like it is a political play about the restoration of power and authority." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
8. "Female sexuality is seen as a threat in many of Shakespeare's plays. This seems to fit the theme of *King Lear* aptly." Do you agree? Comment on the ways in which representation of women in *King Lear* bears out or contradicts this statement. Make detailed reference to the text.
9. Comment on the ways in which Shaw generates discussion on the capitalist ethic, where both land and love are commodified. Refer to the text in your answer.



10. The play *Mother Courage* is not just an anti-war play. It is also a critical intervention in understanding power, authority and the negotiations ordinary people have to make to survive in a harsh world. Respond with reference to the text.
11. Examine the genre of absurd drama in relation to Edward Albee's *the Zoo Story*  
OR *The American Dream*, relating the play to its context of production.

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EG 2 - POETRY

Three Hours

Answer question ONE and THREE OTHER questions.

1. Comment on the significance of **three** (03) of the following passages to the poems from which they have been taken.
  - a) What guards the purity of melting maids,  
In courtly balls, and midnight masquerades,  
Safe from the treach'rous friend, the daring spark,  
The glance by day, the whisper in the dark,  
When kind occasion prompts their warm desires,  
When music softens, and when dancing fires?  
'Tis but their sylph, the wise celestials know,  
Though honour is the word with men below.
  - b) I am standing for peace and non-violence.  
Why world is fighting fighting  
Why all people of world  
Are not following Mahatma Gandhi,  
I am simply not understanding.  
Ancient Indian Wisdom is 100% correct.  
I should say even 200% correct.  
But modern generation is neglecting-  
Too much going for fashion and foreign thing.
  - c) Mad in pursuit and in possession so,  
Had, having, and in quest to have, extreme;  
A bliss in proof and proved, a very woe;  
Before, a joy proposed; behind, a dream.
  - d) She dwells with Beauty—Beauty that must die;  
And Joy, whose hand is ever at his lips  
Bidding adieu; and aching Pleasure nigh,  
Turning to poison while the bee-mouth sips:  
Ay, in the very temple of Delight  
Veil'd Melancholy has her sovran shrine,  
Though seen of none save him whose strenuous tongue  
Can burst Joy's grape against his palate fine;  
His soul shalt taste the sadness of her might,  
And be among her cloudy trophies hung.



- e) She turns and looks a moment in the glass,  
Hardly aware of her departed lover;  
Her brain allows one half-formed thought to pass:  
“Well now that’s done: and I’m glad it’s over.”  
When lovely woman stoops to folly and  
Paces about her room again, alone,  
She smooths her hair with automatic hand,  
And puts a record on the gramophone.

2. EITHER

“Through the ‘portraits’ in *The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer provides us with a cross-section of English society at the time.” Discuss this comment with reference to **three** (03) characters in *The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*.

OR

What is the “moral” in “The Pardoner’s Tale” and how effectively does Chaucer convey it?

3. Examine the characteristics of the Shakespearean sonnet with reference to any **three** (03) of the prescribed sonnets.

4. EITHER

How effective is Milton’s characterization of Satan in *Paradise Lost Book IV*?

OR

What is the role given to Nature in Milton’s “Lycidas”? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples.

5. EITHER

Do you agree with the view that Pope both admires and censures the social world depicted in *The Rape of the Lock*?

OR

Describe Pope’s attitude to **either** the arts **or** politics in the England of his day in “An Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot.”

6. A critic once claimed that “Blake is wrestling with the moral and psychological problems of us all” in his poetry. Respond to this statement with reference to at least **three** (03) poems you have studied.
7. To what extent would it be true to say that “the transitory nature of joy or beauty is one of John Keats’s major preoccupations”? Refer to at least **two** (02) Odes in your answer.



8. Would you agree that T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* depicts the fragmentation and sterility of the modern world? Give reasons and provide examples in responding to this question.
9. Write an introduction to a collection of poems by Nissim Ezekiel.





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ENGLISH III (EG3)—THE NOVEL

Three Hours

Answer **question 1** and **three** other questions.

1. Comment on the significance of **THREE** of the passages given below in the novels from which they have been taken.

- (a) Thus the afternoon dragged on. The wheat-rick shrank lower, and the straw-rick grew higher, and the corn-sacks were carted away. At six o'clock the wheat-rick was about shoulder-high from the ground. But the unthreshed sheaves remaining untouched seemed countless still, notwithstanding the enormous numbers that had been gulped down by the insatiable swallower, fed by the man and Tess, through whose two young hands the greater part of them had passed. And the immense stack of straw where in the morning there had been nothing, appeared as the *faeces* of the same buzzing red glutton. From the west sky a wrathful shine—all that wild March could afford in the way of sunset—had burst forth after the cloudy day, flooding the tired and sticky faces of the threshers, and dyeing them with a coppery light, as also the flapping garments of the women, which clung to them like dull flames.
- (b) He lived in a large new house of red brick, standing outside a mass of homogenous red-brick dwellings, called Wiggiston. Wiggiston was only seven years old. It had been a hamlet of eleven houses on the edge of heathy, half-agricultural country. Then the great seam of coal had been opened. In a year Wiggiston appeared, a great mass of pinkish rows of thin, unreal dwellings of five rooms each. The streets were like visions of pure ugliness; a grey-black macadamized road, asphalt causeways, held in between a flat succession of wall, window, and door, a new-brick channel that began nowhere, and ended nowhere. Everything was amorphous, yet everything repeated itself endlessly. Only now and then, in one of the house-windows vegetables or small groceries were displayed for sale.



- (c) This was the conclusion of the first series of reflection. This was the knowledge of herself, on the first question of inquiry, which she reached; and without being long in reaching it.--She was most sorrowfully indignant; ashamed of every sensation but the one revealed to her—her affection for Mr. Knightley.—Every other part of her mind was disgusting.

With insufferable vanity had she believed herself in the secret of everybody's feelings; with unpardonable arrogance proposed to arrange everybody's destiny. She was proved to have been universally mistaken; and she had not quite done nothing—for she had done mischief. She had brought evil on Harriet, on herself, and she too much feared, on Mr. Knightley.—Were this most unequal of all connections to take place, on her must rest all the reproach of having given it a beginning; for his attachment, she must believe to be produced only by a consciousness of Harriet's;--and even were this not the case, he would never have known Harriet at all but for her folly.

- (d) Mr Casaubon, as might be expected, spent a great deal of his time at the Grange in these weeks, and the hindrance which courtship occasioned to the progress of his great work—the Key to all Mythologies—naturally made him look forward the more eagerly to the happy termination of courtship. But he had deliberately incurred the hindrance, having made up his mind that it was now time for him to adorn his life with the graces of female companionship, to irradiate the gloom which fatigue was apt to hang over the intervals of studious labour with the play of female fancy, and to secure in this, his culminating age, the solace of female tendance for his declining years. Hence he determined to abandon himself to the stream of feeling, and perhaps was surprised to find what an exceedingly shallow rill it was. As in droughty regions baptism by immersion could only be performed symbolically, so Mr Casaubon found that sprinkling was the utmost approach to a plunge which his stream would afford him; and he concluded that the poets had much exaggerated the force of masculine passion. Nevertheless, he observed with pleasure that Miss Brooke showed an ardent submissive affection which promised to fulfill his most agreeable previsions of marriage.

- (e) 'Will there be never any peace? Will there be no rest?' Mrs Gould whispered. 'I thought that we—'

'No!' interrupted the doctor. 'There is no peace and, no rest in the development of material interests. They have their law, and their justice. But it is founded on expediency, and is inhuman; it is without rectitude, without any continuity and the force that can be found only in a moral principle. Mrs Gould, the



time approaches when all that the Gould Concession stands for shall weigh as heavily upon the people as the barbarism, cruelty, and misrule of a few years back.'

'How can you say that, Dr Monygham?' she cried out, as if hurt in the most sensitive place of her soul.

'I can say what is true,' the doctor insisted, obstinately. 'It'll weigh as heavily, and provoke resentment, bloodshed, and vengeance, because the men have grown different. Do you think that now the mine would march upon the town to save their Senor Administrador? Do you think that?'

(f) Then once more Shama started to bring out her account books, and once more she showed how impossible it was for them to live on what he earned. Self-disgust led to anger, shouts, tears, something to add to the concentrated hubbub of the evening, the nerve-torn helplessness. In daylight, in a *Sentinel* motor car and with a *Sentinel* photographer, he drove through the open plain to call on Indian farmers to get material for his feature on Prospects for This Year's Rice Crop. They, illiterate, not knowing to what he would return that evening, treated him as an incredibly superior being. And these same men who, like his brothers, had started on the estates and saved and bought land of their own, were building mansions; they were sending their sons to America and Canada to become doctors and dentists. There was money in the island. It showed in the suits of Govind, who drove the Americans in his taxi; in the possessions of W.C. Tuttle, who hired out his lorry to them; in the new cars; the new buildings. And from this money, despite Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus, despite Samuel Smiles, Mr Biswas found himself barred.

(g) Though there were several greatcoats about the coach, it was not easy to get over this difficulty which Joseph had started. The two gentlemen complained they were cold, and could not spare a rag, the man of wit saying, with a laugh, "that charity began at home"; and the coachman, who had two greatcoats spread under him, refused to lend either, lest they should be made bloody; the lady's footman desiring to be excused for the same reason, which the lady herself, notwithstanding her abhorrence of a naked man, approved: and it is more than probable poor Joseph, who obstinately adhered to his modest resolution, must have perished, unless the postilion (a lad who hath been since transported for robbing a hen-roost) had voluntarily stripped off a greatcoat, his only garment, at the same time swearing a great oath (for which he was rebuked by the passengers), "That he would rather ride in his shirt all his life than suffer a fellow-creature to lie in so miserable a condition."

2. "Joseph Andrews simultaneously mirrors its age and creates a world valid for all time."  
Discuss.



3. In an essay on *Emma*, Arnold Kettle raises the question: "exactly what relevance . . . does *Emma* have for us today?" How would you respond to this question? Give reasons for your answer.
4. "*Middlemarch* provides a valid account of not merely 'provincial life' in Victorian England, but of life in general." Discuss.
5. From your reading of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, how far would you agree with the view that "Tess is responsible for her own suffering"?
6. "If . . . as Conrad says . . . Costaguana [in *Nostromo*] is a South American state 'in general,' it is also every country . . . that has undergone religious, political or cultural colonization or economic imperialism." Discuss.
7. It has been observed that "the key theme of Lawrence's novels is the often unsuccessful quest for harmonious and lasting human relationships." Examine the extent to which *The Rainbow* supports the above claim.
8. Analyze V.S. Naipaul's depiction of Trinidadian life in *A House for Mr Biswas* in relation to his claim that "nothing was created in the West Indies."

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