

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS

ENGLISH SYLLABUS

(Effective from 1991)

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION :

The Examination in English for the General Degree of Bachelor of Arts shall consist of three papers of three hours each:

- ENGLISH I (EG 1) : Language and Drama  
ENGLISH II (EG 2) : Poetry  
ENGLISH III (EG 3) : The Novel

Candidates will be given a wide choice of questions but will be expected to have a basic knowledge of all texts and topics set for study. Passages from texts will be set for comment though details of context will not be required. Candidates' essays should show ability to read texts closely with sensitive attention to nuances of style and meaning. A detailed knowledge of background and of critical works on the texts will not be required, but candidates will undoubtedly profit from reading other literature of the same periods and forms as the set texts, and from a selective reading of articles and books of criticism.

ENGLISH I (EG 1) : Language and Drama

a) Language

The structure of the English Language  
The Word Stock of English  
Sri Lankan English and 'Standard' English  
Phonetics  
Passages of Verse and Prose for Comparison and Evaluation.

b) Drama

- i) Shakespeare: As You like It  
ii) Shakespeare: King Lear  
iii) Bernard Shaw: Widowers' Houses  
iv) Bertolt Brecht : Mother Courage  
v) Edward Albee : The Zoo Story and The American Dream

ENGLISH II (EG 2) : Poetry

- i) Chaucer : The General Prologue to the Cantorbury Tales,  
The Pardoner's Tale, The Millor's Tale

- ii) Shakespeare : Sonnets 1, 18, 30, 33, 55, 60, 73, 94, 129, 130, 141, 146.
- iii) Milton : Lycidas; Paradise Lost Bk. IV.
- iv) Pope : The Rape of the Lock; Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot.
- v) William Blake : The Lamb, The Tiger, A Poison Tree, The Garden of Love, The Sick Rose, Ah! Sunflower, Jerusalem, London.
- vi) John Keats : The odes to Autumn, to a Grecian Urn, to a Nightingale, to Psyche and to Melancholy.
- vii) T.S.Eliot: The Waste Land
- viii) Nissim Ezekiel: Background, Casualty, Night of the Scorpion, Very Indian Poem in Indian English

ENGLISH III (EG 3) : The Novel

- i) Henry Fielding: Joseph Andrews
- ii) Jane Austen : Emma
- iii) George Eliot : Middlemarch
- iv) Thomas Hardy : Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- v) Joseph Conrad : Nostromo
- vi) D.H.Lawrence : The Rainbow
- vii) V.S. Naipaul : A House for Mr. Biswas

RECOMMENDED READING FOR LANGUAGE (EG 1)

- J.SLEDD - A Short Introduction to English Grammar (Chicago, 1959)
- B.M.H. STRANG - Modern English Structure (London, Arnold, 1962)
- O.JESPERSON - The Growth and Structure of the English Language (4th Ed. Oxford, 1922)
- J.R.GREENOUGH & G.L.KITFREDGE - Words and Their Ways in English Speech (N.Y. 1901)
- J.A.SHEARD - The Words We Use (Deutsch, 1954)
- G.H.VALLINS - The Making and Meaning of Words (Black, 1949)
- DANIEL JONES - An Outline of English Phonetics.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@