



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
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FIRST EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - April 2017
ප්‍රථම ශාස්ත්‍ර පරීක්ෂණය (බාහිර) - අප්‍රේල් 2017

ENGE 101
(Writing and Comprehension Skills in English)

Time allowed: Three (03) Hours

Answer all **three** questions.

1. Write an essay of least 250 words on **ONE** of the following topics.

- Write a letter to the Director of an educational institute bringing to his attention the problems encountered by the students / the staff of the institute.
- What are your views on the Private Health Sector in Sri Lanka. You are free to adopt any view on the subject.
- Write a newspaper report on the dengue prevention programme in your village/town.
- Write a creative essay related to an incident that happened in a hospital (the incident should involve both hospital staff and patients).

2. Read the following passage and answer all the questions given below.

Once upon a sunny morning a man who sat in a breakfast nook looked up from his scrambled eggs to see a white unicorn with a golden horn quietly cropping the roses in the garden. The man went up to the bedroom where his wife was still asleep and woke her. "There's a unicorn in the garden," he said. "Eating roses." She opened one unfriendly eye and looked at him. "The unicorn is a mythical beast," she said, and turned her back on him. The man walked slowly downstairs and out into the garden. The unicorn was still there; now he was browsing among the tulips. "Here, unicorn," said the man, and he pulled up a lily and gave it to him. The unicorn ate it gravely. With a high heart, because there was a unicorn in his garden, the man went upstairs and roused his wife again. "The unicorn," he said, "ate a lily." His wife sat up in bed and looked at him coldly. "You are a booby," she said, "and I am going to have you put in the booby-hatch. "The man, who had never liked the words "booby" and "booby-hatch," and who

liked them even less on a shining morning when there was a unicorn in the garden, thought for a moment. "We'll see about that," he said. He walked over to the door. "He has a golden horn in the middle of his forehead," he told her. Then he went back to the garden to watch the unicorn; but the unicorn had gone away. The man sat down among the roses and went to sleep.

As soon as the husband had gone out of the house, the wife got up and dressed as fast as she could. She was very excited and there was a gloat in her eye. She telephoned the police and she telephoned a psychiatrist; she told them to hurry to her house and bring a strait-jacket. When the police and the psychiatrist arrived they sat down in chairs and looked at her, with great interest. "My husband," she said, "saw a unicorn this morning." The police looked at the psychiatrist and the psychiatrist looked at the police. "He told me it ate a lily," she said. The psychiatrist looked at the police and the police looked at the psychiatrist. "He told me it had a golden horn in the middle of its forehead," she said. At a solemn signal from the psychiatrist, the police leaped from their chairs and seized the wife. They had a hard time subduing her, for she put up a terrific struggle, but they finally subdued her. Just as they got her into the strait-jacket, the husband came back into the house.

"Did you tell your wife you saw a unicorn?" asked the police. "Of course not," said the husband. "The unicorn is a mythical beast." "That's all I wanted to know," said the psychiatrist. "Take her away. I'm sorry, sir, but your wife is as crazy as a jaybird." So they took her away, cursing and screaming, and shut her up in an institution. The husband lived happily ever after.

Moral: Don't count your boobies until they are hatched

- 1) Discuss the relationship between the husband and the wife.
- 2) What is the writer's attitude towards the couple?
- 3) Comment on the behavior of the police and the psychiatrist.
- 4) How does the structure of the story help us to understand the writer's attitude towards marriage?
- 5) Explain in your words the moral of the tale.

3. Write a précis of the following passage in approximately 160 words. Use your own words as far as possible.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the proportion of women in the United States working for wages rose steadily, and most of these women entered paid employment out of economic necessity. Daughters, wives, unmarried women and widows have always worked-in the home or on the farm; they now worked also in the factory or shops. "Work" was always the content of most women's lives, but this fact was at odds with the prevailing myth of "true womanhood", according to which the domestic role was a part of woman's nature- her way of being rather than a way of life that could be chosen or rejected. Women's paid work outside the home though it was undertaken to support their families, made a mockery of the domestic ideal of wife and mother. The social status of the employed woman would remain low, so long as the image of the woman at home gracing her hearth, unsullied by the affairs of the world, remain the ideal.

Nevertheless, in the late nineteenth century an increasing number of women sought employment outside the home sometime in their lives. Young unmarried women were predominant in the female workforce, which suggests that with marriage and motherhood, most women reverted to the traditional role of economic dependent-unless their husbands were unable to earn a living wage. Widows and married women whose husbands were disabled or absent, constituted the second major group of working women. Only among Black Americans, and among immigrants whose children worked in industry with them, were their substantial numbers of mothers who held jobs when their husbands were also employed.

All women who sought work outside the home, suffered repercussions from the idea that women's earning function was secondary, that women ought to be supported by someone rather than support themselves. Women were rarely paid at the rate as men. In factories at the end of the century, women workers earned on the average only about half as much as men did, yet need drew women to accept these low-paying jobs. Women workers often were accused of undercutting wages and unsettling the labor market. Young women living with their parents were assumed to be earning "pin money" and thus not to be dependent on their salaries.

Women workers were treated as casual laborers who had no urge for advancement and no future in an organization because home and family comprised their natural interest. Women employed outside the home were seen as an anomaly by nineteenth century standards, which rigidly prescribed separate spheres of activity for men and women, but of course they were not an anomaly at all.
