



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



ශාස්ත්‍රවේදී උපාධි (බාහිර - නව නිර්දේශය-පරීක්ෂණය 300 මට්ටම - පෙබරවාරි 2022
கலைத்தேர்வுப் பரீட்சை (வெளிவாரி-புதிய பாடத்திட்டம்) 300 வது தேர்ச்சி மட்டம் - பெப்ரவரி 2022
Bachelor of Arts (External - New Syllabus) Examination 300 Level – February - 2022

(ENGE 302: Topics in the Study of the English Language)

කාලය පැය (03) තුනයි
மூன்று (03) மணித்தியாலங்கள்
Time three (03) Hours.

නොපැහැදිලි අත් අකුරුවලට ලකුණු කපනු ලැබේ
எழுத்து தெளிவில்லாதவிடத்து புள்ளிகள் குறைக்கப்படும்.
Marks will be deducted for illegible hand writing.

ප්‍රශ්න 4 පිළිතුරු සපයන්න
4 வினாக்களுக்கு மட்டும் விடையளிக்க.
Answer 4 questions only.

මෙම ප්‍රශ්න පත්‍රයේ අඩංගු ප්‍රශ්න සංඛ්‍යාව 4 කි
இந்த வினாப்பத்திரத்தில் 4 வினாக்கள் உள்ளன.
There are 4 questions in the question paper.

1. Critically analyse the following passages, paying special attention to the ways in which they exemplify and/or contest established/dominant/trending arguments on the English language, its power and contextual roles. Explain the main arguments, examples and areas of focus of the given passages when developing your answers. Use between 200-250 words for each response. (30 marks)

- a. “The status of the English language in post-independence Sri Lanka has been an iteration of the political dictum that history repeats. The agitation for ‘Swabasha’ education became strong because, during the colonial time, English education excluded many native people from social opportunities and advancement. In the thirty years or so from the mid-1950s to the mid 1980s, English was to all intents and purposes not recognized officially, and the use of this language was not condoned for administrative or educational purposes. Gradually, the country was pushed in the direction of using national languages for education. But in 1977, when the country opened its economy for all, there was a need for English. The private sector flourished, and it needed English-educated personnel for trade, commerce and international relations. The lifestyle of Sri Lankans was also modified by the culture and language of the British. In order to maintain international contacts, to use it in education, science, technology and business, and to lead a modern life, there was a need for Sri Lankans to learn the English language.” (15 marks)
- b. “Salman Rushdie comments, in an essay called ‘Commonwealth literature does not exist’, that ‘the English language ceased to be the sole possession of the English some time ago’. Indeed, when even the largest English-speaking nation, the USA, turns out to have only about 20 per cent of the world’s English speakers [...], it is plain that no one can now claim sole ownership. This is probably the best way of defining a genuinely global language, in fact: that its usage is not restricted by countries or (as in the case of some artificial languages) by governing bodies. The loss of ownership is of course uncomfortable to those, especially in Britain, who feel that the language is theirs by historical right; but they have no alternative. There is no way in which any kind of regional social movement, such as the purist societies which try to prevent language change or restore a past period of imagined linguistic excellence, can influence the global outcome.” (15 marks)

2. Define and explain 4 out of the 6 terms given below. (40-50 words for each answer, 4 × 5=20 marks)

- a. Bilingualism
b. Language Endangerment
c. Diglossia
d. Dialects

- e. Register
- f. Standardisation

3.

EITHER

- a. Critically analyse your own experience with acquiring/ learning the English language. In your answer, explain the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors which shaped your experience with the language. (400-450 words, 25 marks)

OR

- b. You have been given the task of introducing the topic Sri Lankan English to a group of Grade 10 students. Explain 3 main points/ arguments that you will use for this lesson. (400-450 words, 25 marks)

4.

EITHER

- a. Comment on 3 important historical events which uniquely contributed to the development of the English language. In your answer, explain what sort of an impact those events had on the language and its users. (400-450 words, 25 marks)

OR

- b. Explain the contribution made by English language dictionaries for the development, use and learning of the language. (400-450 words, 25 marks)
