



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION  
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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - DECEMBER 2019  
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EG 1: Language and Drama

(Three Hours)

Answer **Question 6** 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:

They thought that she faced the challenge with bravery.

- 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. "He read the book" and "He was reading the book when the doorbell rang"
- ii. "He sold the boat" and "he has sold the boat"
- iii. "My brother is a teacher" and "My brother has been a teacher for seven years"
- iv. "My sister might join the club" and "My sister will join the club"
- v. "She had finished building the house when her brother returned the country" and "She had been building the house for six months when her brother returned to the country"
- vi. "The teacher will finish grading the books" and "The teacher will have finished grading the books by the end of the class period"

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

- i. She emphasized that the importance of protecting democracy.

- ii. They were of the view that the democratic forces should get together.
- iii. The chairperson was selected democratically.
- iv. The goal of the new policies is to democratize the English language.
- v. Everyone commented on the theatricality of the ceremony.
- vi. The speaker highlighted the developments of the local theatre tradition.
- vii. The theatre was full of people.
- viii. The new recruit was given a good salary.
- ix. They recruit teachers in December.
- x. It was a nice drive back to Kandy.

4. Discuss how the political developments that took place during the Middle English period resulted in shaping the English language.

5. While some argue that Sri Lankan English is nothing more than 'Broken English,' some others view Sri Lankan English as a legitimate variety that is better equipped to handle Sri Lankan realities. What is your assessment of Sri Lankan English? Discuss using examples.

#### ***PART B: DRAMA***

6. Comment on the significance of any THREE of the following extracts from which they are taken.

- a. Poor naked wretches, whereso'er you are,  
That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm,  
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,  
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness, defend you  
From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en  
Too little care of this! Take physic, pomp;  
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel,  
That thou mayst shake the superflux to them,  
'And show the heavens more just.
- b. I beseech you, punish me not with your hard  
thoughts; wherein I confess me much guilty, to deny  
so fair and excellent ladies anything. But let  
your fair eyes and gentle wishes go with me to my  
trial: wherein if I be foiled, there is but one  
shamed that was never gracious; if killed, but one  
dead that was willing to be so: I shall do my  
friends no wrong, for I have none to lament me, the  
world no injury, for in it I have nothing; only in  
the world I fill up a place, which may be better  
supplied when I have made it empty.

c. Who's been defeated? Look, victory ain't bound to be same for the big shots up top as for them below, not by no means. Can be times the bottom lot find a defeat really pays them. Honour's lost, nowt else I remember once up in Livornia our general took such a beating from the enemy I got a horse off our baggage train in the confusion, pulled me cart seven months, he did, before we won and they checked up. As a rule you can say victory and defeat both come expensive to us ordinary folk. Best thing for us is when politics get bogged down solid.

d. EITHER

Now, here is what I had wanted to happen: I had tried to love, and I had tried to kill, and both had been unsuccessful by themselves. I hoped—and I don't really know why I expected the dog to understand anything, much less my motivations—I hoped that the dog would understand.

OR

What I'll really have to do is to see if it applies to anything. I mean, after all, I do do volunteer work if an adoption service, but it isn't very much like the Bye-Bye Adoption Service is the Bye-Bye Adoption Service and while I can remember Mommy and Daddy coming to see me, oh, about twenty years ago, about buying a bumble, I can't quite remember anyone very much like Mommy and Daddy coming to see me about buying a bundle.

e. Yes, a reasonable guarantee. I shall expect you to write to your relatives explaining your intention, and adding what you think proper as to my daughter's fitness for the best society. When you can shew me a few letters from the principal members of your family, congratulating you in a fairly cordial way, I shall be satisfied. Can I say more?

7. Examine the ways in which Shakespeare's *As You Like It* explores issues related to gender, cross-dressing and identity.

8. Analyze how William Shakespeare's *King Lear* explores the theme of power as it relates to familial relationships and sovereignty.

9. How does George Bernard Shaw's *Widowers' Houses* illustrate the ways in which human relationships and emotions are commodified and rendered mechanical in the Capitalist system? Answer with references to the text.

10. "Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* is considered to be one of the greatest anti-war plays ever written." Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with examples from the text.

11. "Characters in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* and *The American Dream* desperately try to connect with each other, but they fail to do." Do you agree with this statement? Answer with references to *The Zoo Story* and/or *The American Dream*.

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