

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama

Sidang Akademik 1999/2000

HXE 305 - Malaysian Literature in English

September 1999

Masa: [3 jam]

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THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer FOUR [4] questions. Each question carries 25 marks. Do not repeat what has already been elaborated in another question.

1. EITHER

[a] What are the primary concerns of Malaysian dramatists? Illustrate your discussion with reference to at least two plays.

OR

[b] If you had to put forward two "best" plays, one from Singapore, and one from Malaysia, what would they be, and why?

2. EITHER

[a] Evaluate the works of any one Malaysian or Singaporean poet from the point of view of style and content. In your view, does the poet succeed in his or her aims as a writer?

OR

[b] With detailed and specific references to poems, argue for whom you would consider to be the most effective and typical Malaysian or Singaporean poet.

3. EITHER

[a] The Oxford Dictionary describes the novel as "fictitious prose narrative of sufficient length to fill one or more volumes portraying characters and actions representative of real life in continuous plot". Is such a definition adequate? Discuss with reference to at least two novels from this region.

.../2

OR

- [b] What would your response be to the view that the Singaporean and Malaysian novelists have different aims as evidenced in their works? Discuss with reference to the novels.

4. EITHER

- [a] Would you agree with the claim that in the region as a whole, the short story is the significant genre? Discuss with reference to the stories.

OR

- [b] Thumboo suggests a need for the domestication of English in order that the emergent writer succeed in his goals. Is there evidence of such an successful engagement?

OR

- [c] What would you consider to be the definitive aspects of literature in this region? Discuss with detailed reference.

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