

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

**HET 308 - Malaysian and Singaporean Literature in English**

Duration : 3 hours

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Please check that this examination paper consists of **TWO** pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

**Instructions :**

Answer **FOUR** questions.

Each question carries 100 marks.

Do not repeat what has already been exemplified and elaborated upon in another question.

1. Discuss and describe with specific examples, your understanding of  
EITHER  
[a] 'Malaysian literature'  
OR  
[b] 'Singapore literature' in English.
2. Discuss what you consider to be distinctive and significant in the works of any one of the following:  
[a] Ghulam Sarwar Yousof;  
[b] Gopal Baratham;  
[c] Catherine Lim;  
[d] K.S Maniam;  
[e] Muhammad Haji Salleh.
3. Shirley Lim (1994) suggested that it would be possible to consider works from this region through their attempts to problematise national identity through explorations of ethnicity, history, language and social success. Do you agree? Evaluate this view with detailed reference to any one work.
4. Krishen Jit argued that the playwrights "are not wrestling with the fundamental issues of Malaysian society". Discuss with reference to either one play specifically, or plays in general.
5. Hariati Azizan suggested the following general perception in The Star (January 11, 2002)  
"Malaysian arts. Cringe. Malaysian writing. Double cringe. Malaysian English writing? Triple cringe...more cringe and more laughter".  
Is this a fair comment? Discuss with reference to actual works.
6. Select a poet whose poems in your view successfully convey a "Malaysian" or "Singaporean" identity. Discuss this poet's use of local materials and themes.