

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

**HXE 305 - Malaysian Literature in English**

Duration : 3 hours

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

Answer **FOUR** questions. Each question carries 100 marks. Do not repeat what has already been exemplified and elaborated upon in another question.

1. Do you agree with the statement that a short story should tell a story? Is such a statement adequate? Discuss with reference to and evaluation of the stories that you have studied during the course.
2. With detailed and specific references to poems, argue for whom you would consider to be the most effective and typical poet of this region.
3. K.S. Maniam suggested in the late 1980s that  
"Malaysian Literature in English has a function; holding a mirror to its immigrant self".  
This view raises a number of perceptions and problems. Discuss the validity of his claim with reference to fiction from this region.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Krishen Jit has argued that the playwrights "are not wrestling with the fundamental issues of Malaysian society". Discuss if this is true with reference to specific plays.