

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 1995/96

Oktober/November 1995

HET 403 Analisis Bahasa Kesusasteraan

Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN THREE [3] PAGES.

Answer ALL FOUR [4] questions.

1. Colmer (1967) suggests that A Passage To India "is a novel that explores the difficulties men face in trying to understand each other and the universe; it is not primarily concerned with questions of rule and race" (E.M. Foster, A Passage To India, p. 11).

Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the text.

[25 marks]

2. It has been suggested that a short story should tell a story, and that it should have "complication - crisis - resolution". Is this a fair assessment? Discuss with reference to the stories that you have read.

[25 marks]

3. The following is the first paragraph from Ben Okri's The Famished Road, a novel which deals with the experiences of a 'spirit-child', who is born into a poor childless family.

Is this opening paragraph typical of novels? Consider the style and development of the paragraph as well as the language used. Discuss these, and anything else that you feel is significant.

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O N E

IN THE BEGINNING there was a river. The river became a road and the road branched out to the whole world. And because the road was once a river it was always hungry.

In that land of beginnings spirits mingled with the unborn. We could assume numerous forms. Many of us were birds. We knew no boundaries. There was much feasting, playing and sorrowing. We feasted much because of the beautiful terrors of eternity. We played much because we were free. And we sorrowed much because there were always those amongst us who had just returned from the world of the Living. They had returned inconsolable for all the love they had left behind, all the suffering they hadn't redeemed, all that they hadn't understood, and for all that they had barely begun to learn before they were drawn back to the land of origins.

There was not one amongst us who looked forward to being born. We disliked the rigours of existence, the unfulfilled longings, the enshrined injustices of the world, the labyrinths of love, the ignorance of parents, the fact of dying, and the amazing indifference of the Living in the midst of the simple beauties of the universe. We feared the heartlessness of human beings, all of whom are born blind, few of whom ever learn to see.

[25 marks]

4. Analyse the following poem by Shelley with reference to structure, development, language and purpose.

OZYMANDIAS

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: 'Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert Near them on the sand
Half-sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on those lifeless things
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair.
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

[25 marks]

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