
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
2015/2016 Academic Session

June 2016

HXE 224 – CRITICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE

Duration : 2 hours

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

Answer THREE questions. Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE from Section B and ONE more from either Section A or B.

Section A

1. How does Hanif Kureishi upset the imagined notion of Englishness and cultural purity in his novel *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990)?

[100 marks]

2. How far are the subalterns granted agency to challenge their oppressive status in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* (1997)?

[100 marks]

3. Reading as an ecocritic basically involves being attentive to nonhuman issues that have traditionally been pushed to the background. How is this attempted in John Keats' ode "To Autumn" (1820) and Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1923)?

[100 marks]

Section B

4. "Above all you must illumine your own soul with its profundities and its shallows, and its vanities and its generousities, and say what your beauty means to you or your plainness, and what is your relation to the everchanging and turning world..."

(Woolf, 1929, p.154)

With reference to the above excerpt, explain how women can change their lives and control their own identities. Base your answer on Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* (1929).

[100 marks]

5. Women need emotional engagement as this shapes a woman's capacity to not only listen but to be heard as well.

Support or refute this statement with reference to at least THREE short stories you have studied.

[100 marks]

6. Women view marriage as comprising embattled relationships of power between men and themselves.

How do the selected poems you have studied manifest this idea?
Refer to at least THREE poems.

[100 marks]