
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
2015/2016 Academic Session

June 2016

HXE 316 – THE ENGLISH NOVEL

Duration: 3 hours

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

Answer FOUR questions. Answer TWO questions from Section A and TWO questions from Section B.

Section A

1. Analyse how the symbol of the house is used to enrich the portrayal of Mr. Biswas' life in V. S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* (1961).

[100 marks]

2. Discuss the conflicting instincts of civilization and savagery in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* (1954).

[100 marks]

3. One of the issues in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945) is that ignorance can contribute to political and social oppression. How does the animals' behaviour in the novel highlight this issue?

[100 marks]

Section B

4. In Jane Austen's *Persuasion* (1818), Anne Elliot says to Captain Harville that women "live at home, quiet, confined, and our feelings prey upon us ... You [men] have always a profession, pursuits, business of some sort or other, to take you back into the world immediately, and continual occupation and change soon weaken impressions."

Explain how this statement is true of Anne's life, and that of the other upper class women within the historical context of the novel.

[100 marks]

5. Critics have noted that George Eliot's novel *Silas Marner* (1861) reads like a fairy tale. Evaluate this view in relation to Eliot's claim that she has given the main character a "more realistic treatment" than the basic plot of the story might suggest.

[100 marks]

6. With close reference to the issue of ethics and aesthetics in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), discuss Oscar Wilde's statement in the Preface to his novel that "[t]here is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all."

[100 marks]