

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2004/2005

March 2005

**HET 522 – Perspectives in English Language Studies:  
Literacy and Literature**

Masa : 3 hours

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

1. This paper is divided into TWO sections of three questions.
2. You must answer TWO questions from each section, making a total of FOUR answers.
3. Use a separate answer booklet for each section.
4. Each question is worth the same number of marks.

### **Section A**

1. Richard Kern (2000) points out that  
  
“Our conceptions of literacy are intimately tied to technologies of writing. From stone tablets and papyrus scrolls, to paper and the printing press, and now to computers, technological advances have always created new possibilities, as well as challenges, for literacy development”.  
  
Would you agree? Elaborate, and discuss the above statement.
  
2. Discuss developments in the understanding of the term Literacy, and the related assumptions and implications arising out of such developments.
  
3. It has been suggested that a literacy-based curriculum is obligated to balance structural dimensions, communicative needs and literacy perspectives. What would such a curriculum include in terms of topics, activities and goals?

### **Section B**

4. “The existence of a rapidly developing world literature in English has not so far been manifested in materials for the classroom, though the basis for such development exists in a wide range of recent descriptive, theoretical and pedagogically based studies” (Carter 1997 p224). To what extent is this statement true in the context of your own academic experience?
  
5. “A view of discourse literacy, it is argued, should embrace a capacity for engagement with all kinds of texts...” (Carter 1997 p81). What would such an engagement entail in terms of literary and non-literary texts?

6. “The language we use does not reflect; it refracts a world which we are in but which we can contest and change. Literary discourse analysis should seek to demonstrate the determining positions available within texts, and show how ‘meanings’ and ‘interpretations of meanings’ are always and inevitably discursively produced” (Carter 1997 p118).

Discuss the statement in relation to the following extract.

The idea of being manhandled by a naked black boy appalled her; struck at the root of one of the basic principles of her civilized code. It was terrifying; revolting; obscene. Back in Charleston it would have got the darkie lynched...All the tenets of progressive society and racial superiority combined inside her to form a deep-rooted core of resentment. It was wrong, cruelly wrong, that she and her brother should be forced to run for help to a Negro; and a naked Negro at that (*Walkabout* James Vance Marshall).