

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

HXE 108 – Approaches to English Literature

Duration: 3 hours

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

Answer **FOUR** questions. **TWO** from **SECTION A** and **TWO** from **SECTION B**.

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SECTION A

1. EITHER

- [a] Discuss the central tension in William Blake's "London" (1794). How does this tension structure the poem as a whole?

[100 marks]

OR

- [b] How are symbols and allusions combined to achieve an effect of horror and emerging brutality in William Butler Yeats "The Second Coming" (1920)?

[100 marks]

2. To what extent is the New Critical approach successful in deepening your awareness of the co-existence of death and renewal in the wintry month of November in Ted Hughes' poem "November" (1930)?

[100 marks]

3. "Along with the idea of romantic love, [Pauline] was introduced to another – physical beauty. Probably the most destructive ideas in the history of human thought". With reference to Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, (1970) discuss how the text's formal elements and multiple meanings all work together to convey the above proposition and its damaging effects on Pecola.

[100 marks]

4. Discuss the dramatic nature of Shakespeare's use of imagery in *Macbeth* and account for the impressions and ideas that they help to create.

[100 marks]

SECTION B

5. Evaluate Frank O'Connor's narrative style in his short story "First Confession" (1951). What purposes and effects does it help to achieve?

[100 marks]

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6. “The unconscious comes into being when we are very young through the *repression*, the expunging from consciousness (certain) unhappy psychological events. However, repression doesn’t eliminate our painful experiences and emotions. Rather, it gives them force by making them the organizers of our current experience: we unconsciously behave in ways that will allow us to ‘play out’, without admitting it to ourselves, our conflicted feelings about the painful experiences and emotions we repress” (Tyson 1999: 15). Discuss the above in relation to Gregor Samsa’s transformation in Franz Kafka’s “The Metamorphosis” (1916).

[100 marks]

7. How is the psychoanalytic view of human behaviour relevant to your understanding and interpretation of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1818)?

[100 marks]