

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 2003/2004

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HXE 211 – Literary Criticism

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER COMPRISES **TWO** PAGES.

Answer FOUR questions. Choose any TWO questions from **Section A** and TWO from **Section B**.

Section A

1. In Conrad's *An Outcast of the Islands* (1896), "No one group is idealized; rather our sense is of a succession of displacements and power struggles, internally and externally fuelled by a common human greed. It is a world of multiple viewpoints, rich and historic, not the homogeneous, self-congratulatory story of unenlightened, backward "them" and "heroic, progressive "us", a Manichean opposition central, as Abdul JanMohamed has shown, to most of the day's colonial fictions" (White 1996). How far would you agree with White's views in your reading of Conrad's novel?

[100 marks]

2. "Everyone who writes about the Orient must locate himself vis-à-vis the Orient, translated into his text, this location includes the kind of narrative voice he adopts, the type of structure he builds, the kinds of images, themes, motifs that circulate in his text --- all of which adds up to deliberate ways of addressing the reader, containing the Orient and finally representing it or speaking in its behalf" (Said 1978). With reference to Said's views, to what extent does Burgess adopt an Orientalist stance in his exploration of inter-racial tension in Malaya before and after Independence and of the progressively marginalized role played by the British during this time in *The Malayan Trilogy* (1956-59)?

[100 marks]

...2/-

3. "One way in which attention is drawn to the Eurocentric bias of literature ...is through a process of engaging in a dialogue with canonical texts, showing their omissions and preferences" (Green & Lebihan 1996). How does Jean Rhys attempt to do this in her novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*? (1966).

[100 marks]

Section B

Answer TWO questions.

4. Explain the following terms and discuss their relevance to the critical analysis of literary texts providing textual examples where necessary
- [a] ecocriticism
 - [b] ecofeminism

[100 marks]

5. "The story of the mind exiled from Nature is the story of Western Man" (Bate 2000). Discuss the statement in relation to your reading of *Walkabout*.

[100 marks]

6. The woman's "natural association with the domestic context...tends to compound her potential for being viewed as closer to nature because of the animal-like nature of the children, and because of the infra-social connotation of the domestic group as against the rest of society. Yet at the same time, her socializing and cooking functions within the domestic context show her to be a powerful agent of the cultural process constantly transforming raw material resources into cultural products. Belonging to culture, yet appearing to have stronger and more direct connotations with nature, she is seen as situated between the two" (Ortner 1974). Discuss the statement with reference to at least TWO texts from your reading list.

[100 marks]