

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama  
Sidang Akademik 2001/2002

September 2001

**HXE 210 – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Novels**

Masa : 3 jam

**THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SIX [6] QUESTIONS IN THREE [3] PAGES.**

**Section A**

Answer **ANY TWO [2]** questions.

1. **EITHER**

- [a] Is Jane representative of the female self that both fascinated and shocked Victorian women?  
Discuss with close reference to Jane Eyre.

[100 marks]

**OR**

- [b] How do you think Jane achieves self-empowerment?  
Discuss with close reference to Jane Eyre.

[100 marks]

2. **EITHER**

- [a] Oliver Twist is more than a social problem novel – it has major thematic concerns that are important to all societies.  
Discuss.

[100 marks]

...2/-

**OR**

- [b] In your opinion, did Dickens sentimentalize on vice and crime in Oliver Twist? Discuss.

[100 marks]

3. **EITHER**

- [a] In Conrad's Heart of Darkness, how are both Kurtz and the Intended seen as pitiful victims of unreal aspirations?

[100 marks]

**OR**

- [b] Verbal communication has a tendency to be deluding. How far is this reflected in Conrad's Heart of Darkness?

[100 marks]

**Section B**

Answer **ANY TWO [2]** questions.

4. **EITHER**

- [a] The use of animals as the main protagonists in *Animal Farm* is one of the main reasons why the impact, significance and entertainment value of the novel have been enhanced. Discuss.

[100 marks]

**OR**

- [b] Irrespective of the sort of ideology or political system practised, *Animal Farm* illustrates aptly the axiom that power in any form corrupts. Discuss.

[100 marks]

5. **EITHER**

- [a] *A Passage to India* is a journey which is simultaneously a journey into “the heart of darkness” and a process of self-discovery. Discuss.

[100 marks]

**OR**

- [b] To what extent does *A Passage to India* reinforce the orientalist perception of the East? Discuss.

[100 marks]

6. **EITHER**

- [a] The character of Mrs Tulsi in *A House for Mr. Biswas* challenges in many ways the traditional, stereotypical portrayal of women. Discuss. (100 marks)

**OR**

- [b] The portrayal of the character of Mr. Biswas fails to elicit much sympathy from readers. Rather, readers see him as a weak, ineffectual character. Discuss.

[100 marks]