
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2007/2008

April 2008

**HET 224 – STYLE IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE IN
ENGLISH**

Duration : 3 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of 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. Each question carries 100 marks. Do not repeat what has been exemplified and elaborated upon in another question.

Section A

1. EITHER

- [a] How effective is the use of the twelve-year-old narrator in Robert Raymer's "Sister's Room"?

OR

- [b] The narrator in Raymer's "On Fridays," "Future Barrister," and "The Blue Thread" experiences a sense of displacement and disorientation with his new environment and social life. Discuss how these experiences are reflected in Raymer's writing.

2. EITHER

- [a] Discuss how the notion of guilt dominates the style of writing in Karim Raslan's works of fiction.

OR

- [b] Discuss how Anton as a minor character plays an important role in determining Mahmud's sense of identity in Karim Raslan's "Go East."

Section B

3. "Man marries today to obtain an anchorage in immanence, but not to be himself confined therein; he wants to have hearth and home while being free to escape therefrom; he settles down but often remains a vagabond at heart; he is not contemptuous of domestic felicity; but he does make of it an end in itself; repetition bores him; he seeks after novelty, risk, opposition to overcome, companions and friends who take him away from solitude *à deux*" (Simone de Beauvoir, 1953).

Discuss how Victor Crabbe and Alladad Khan subscribe to the above notion especially in relation to their wives, Fenella and Fatimah respectively, in Anthony Burgess' *Time for a Tiger* (1956).

4. Discuss in what way the narrative style changes from *Time for a Tiger* (1956) to *The Enemy in the Blanket* (1958).
5. Anthony Burgess wrote in his Introduction to *Malayan Trilogy* (1972) that the main character, Victor Crabbe "...is not untypical of the decent, well-equipped, well-meaning Englishmen who took on posts in the tropics". Based on your reading of the first two parts of the trilogy, evaluate whether Victor Crabbe as a character subscribes to or departs from the image described by Burgess above.