



FINAL EXAMINATION IN GENERAL ENGLISH PROFICIENCY 2007/2008

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: ELP - 06

TIME: 03 HOURS.

Answer question ONE and FIVE others selecting at least one from each section.

I. Answer the following questions with reference to the extracts given below.

01. "I'll boil the grain and make porridge  
I'll pluck the mallows and make soup".

- a) From which poem are these lines taken?
- b) Who translated this poem?
- c) Who is the "I" in the poem?

02. "And miles to go before I sleep  
And miles to go before I sleep"

- a) From which poem are these lines taken?
- b) Who is the writer?
- c) What is the situation?

03. "I shot him dead because -  
Because he was my foe"

- a) From which poem are these lines taken?
- b) Who is the writer?
- c) What do the pronouns "I" and "he" refer to?

04. "Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way"

- a) From which poem are these lines taken?
- b) Who is the writer?
- c) What is referred to as "Continuous as the stars that shine"?

05. "As their ears strain to catch the boot-steps  
That come to bundle them into trucks  
And dump them for lifetime into cells"

- From which poem are these lines taken?
- Who is the writer?
- What is the situation?

06. "And how to keep what he had earned  
From the lazy, shiftless poor".

- From which poem are these lines taken?
- Who is the writer?
- Who is the "he" in the poem?

07. "It was probably the first time for twenty years that any one had  
smiled in that lumber room"

- From which work are these lines taken?
- Who is the writer?
- Who smiled in that lumber room?

08. "Oh yes, I know, our families have known each other for years,  
though we are strangers".

- From which work are these lines taken?
- Who is the writer?
- Who speaks to whom?

09. "To propose? To me? But why didn't you tell me that before?"

- From which work are these lines taken?
- Who is the writer?
- Who speaks to whom?

10. "You have done nothing wrong and I am sure that one  
day soon you will be free"

- Who wrote these lines?
- To whom were they written?
- What is the relationship between the writer and the addressee?

[30 marks]

Section: A [Poetry]

II. Read the following poem and answer the questions given below.

PLEAD MERCY

We pass a bullock yoked to a cart  
Straining uphill. He shivers  
With effort, his bones  
Protrude and the taut skin quivers  
At each whip of the sharp-thorned stick  
There is no expression on his face

Only his eyes plead mercy.  
Foam slavers from his lips  
As he travails to increase his pace  
And slips. My daughter asks  
Does he think life is worth living?

I tell her what I know  
Is not true, that life  
Is always better than death.  
She frowns.  
If there is a revolution, she says.  
I'll kill myself. All those horrible things  
They do to people.

The bullock has fallen on the rough  
Edge of the road, He tries,  
But in spite of the stick he cannot rise.

Lord, have mercy on his eyes

My daughter is just thirteen.

Anne Rauasinghe

01. Describe the plight of the bull. [01 mark]
02. What were the daughter's feelings? [02 marks]
03. How old is the daughter? [02 marks]
04. What are your feelings as a reader? [02 marks]
05. What does the line "in spite of the stick, he cannot rise" mean? [03 marks]
06. Do you like this poem? Say why? [04 marks]



III. Paraphrase any two (02) of the following poems.

01. 'Old poem' by Arther Waley.
02. 'Stopping by woods' by Robert Frost.
03. 'The Cold within' – Anonymous

[14 marks]

IV. Write an appreciation of any poem prescribed for your study.

[14 marks]

**Section – B [Prose]**

V. "Nicholas managed to outsmart Aunt at every turn". Enumerate such instances you find in the story.

[14 marks]

VI. Describe the scene in the story 'High chair' where Prema enters Thilak's house to deliver the clothes.

[14 marks]

VII. Write an appreciation of any short story prescribed for your study with regard to its character and theme.

[14 marks]

**Section – C [Drama]**

VIII. What do Lomov and Natalyia quarrel about? Do you think that the things they quarrel about are important?

[14 marks]

IX. Contrast the characters of Mauria and Bartley with reference to "Riders to the Sea" by J.M.Synge.

[14 marks]

X. Do you like play "Child's play" by Abhijit Sircar? Say why?

[14 marks]