

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang Akademik 2003/2004

Februari/Mac 2004

HXE 208 - 19th and 20th Century Poetry

Time : 3 hours

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

Answer any **FOUR** questions. All questions carry the same marks.

1. “A fundamental aspect of the way the poetry of the First World War has been understood and absorbed into literary culture is the fact that its poets have tended to be grouped together, associated by their common subject matter and attitude to the war” (Gray 1995 p.49). Discuss.

[100 marks]

2. The following poem, written in 1993, illustrates a response to the Bosnian War. Compare and contrast the treatment of the subject matter and attitude to war to that of the poetry of the First World War .

[100 marks]

...2/-

The Windows of Sarajevo

Here are the smallest windows in the world. Light hovers but does not enter; it is cold-boned, nervous, an awkward signal. And the child who sits inside this building never bothers to look out. There is nothing. There is no. There is no picture to be seen. Instead on scraps of paper the small girl draws a window that becomes a sun, a rose, a bird of pale blue that flies in making the entire room gold and blue, a whisper of eternity. And even music. It is the music of skipping ropes, running and bouncing a ball. And sometimes the window lets in smells of food, of flowers. And there are extraordinary butterflies of laughter, and a kite that keeps crossing the tree tops, and the sound of bells. Here are the smallest windows in the world and the child draws what she believes.

David H.W. Grubb

3. The Romantic view of “natural objects as corresponding to an inner or a spiritual world served also as the understructure for a tendency...to write a symbolist poetry in which a rose, a sunflower, a mountain, a cave, or a cloud is presented as an object instinct with a significance beyond itself” (The Norton Anthology of English Literature ed. Abrams. 1986 p.9). Discuss

[100 marks]

4. “The world of the poem thus comes to resemble a well regulated ecosystem in which man is not the centre, but rather part of a network of relations”. Discuss the statement in relation to Keats’ *Ode to Autumn*

[100 marks]

5. Compare and contrast Hughes’ treatment of “autumn” in *The Seven Sorrows* to Keats’ in *Ode to Autumn*.

[100 marks]

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6. "Art produced after the first world war recorded the...loss of faith, experience of fragmentation and disintergration, and the shattering of cultural symbols and norms" (Childs 1999 p67). Discuss the statement in relation to Eliots' and Hughes' poems.

[100 marks]

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