ENG1501

May/June 2018

Foundations in English Literary Studies

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

EXAMINERS
FIRST DR A E PRETORIUS
SECOND MR R FOURIE
MISS EL NORTJE

Closed book examination

This examination question paper remains the property of the University of South Africa and may not be removed from the examination venue

This examination paper consists of 3 pages

This examination paper comprises two questions Answer both questions

TURN OVER
Question 1: *The Catcher in the Rye* (J D Salinger)

Read the quotation below and then write an essay in response to the question that follows.

The [ ] main ways we learn about characters in literature [ ] are through what others say about them, through what they do (their actions) and through what they say or think about themselves. How a character’s physical appearance and mannerisms are described can also tell the observant reader about his or her nature and motives. *(IELS 2006 127)*

Using the statement above as a starting point, write an essay in which you show how Salinger constructs Holden as a character who feels lonely, insecure and alienated from his society.

Your essay should be at least five paragraphs in length and should contain an introduction that outlines your central argument, a body that develops this argument by referring to specific examples from the novel, and a conclusion that summarises your main points.

You should not simply provide a summary of Holden as a character. Rather, your essay should

- show an understanding of the different strategies that Salinger uses to construct Holden as a character (consider the strategies mentioned in the quotation)
- show an understanding of narrative perspective and characterisation as elements of fiction
- refer to at least three specific moments, symbols, settings, and/or characters in the novel to support your answer

50 marks

AND

Question 2: *The Road to Mecca* (Athol Fugard)

In *The Road to Mecca*, both Helen and Elsa undergo spiritual journeys. Read the quotation below and answer the question that follows.

Elsa: There is a little sequel to my story about giving that woman a lift. When I stopped at the turn-off and she got out of the car, after I had given her what was left of my food and the money in my purse, after she had stopped thanking me and telling me over and over again that God would bless me, after all of that I asked her who she was. She said “My English name is Patience.” She hitched up the baby, tightened her *doek*,

TURN OVER
picked up her little plastic shopping bag and started walking. As I watched her walk away, measuring the next eighty miles of her life in small steps, I wanted to scream. And about a mile further on, in the kloof, I did exactly that. I stopped the car, switched off the engine, closed my eyes and started to scream.

(76-77)

In an essay of at least five paragraphs, discuss how the scene described in the quotation relates to Elsa's spiritual journey. Your essay should address the following points:

- what this scene tells us about Elsa's character
- how visiting Helen helps Elsa deal with the difficulties in her own life
- the symbolic significance of Patience's name in relation to Elsa in the rest of the play

Your essay should contain an introduction that outlines your central argument, a body that develops this argument by referring to specific examples from the play, and a conclusion that summarises your main points.

50 marks

TOTAL: 100 marks

©

UNISA 2018