CODE/COURSE : GDR3013 ASEAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
DATE : 19 NOVEMBER 2008
TIME : 9.00AM – 11.30 AM (2 ½ HOURS)
VENUE : DMS

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. This exam paper contains TWO (2) sections in THREE (3) printed pages, excluding the cover page.
2. Section A contains FOUR (4) structured questions. Section B contains TWO (2) essay questions.
3. Answer ALL questions on the answer sheets provided.
4. You are NOT ALLOWED to remove the exam paper from the examination hall.

MATRIC NO. : ________________________________ (in words)
            (in figures)
IDENTITY CARD NO.: __________________________
LECTURER: NOOR AIDA MAHMOR
GROUP: A
TABLE NO.: __________________

DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

CONFIDENTIAL
SECTION A (60 marks)

INSTRUCTIONS:
Answer ALL the questions.

1. Read the poem below and answer the following questions:

   My Poetry Not Mere Poetry

   My poetry's not mere poetry, no,
   but it's the sound of sobbing from a life,
   the din of doors in a dark jail
   the wheeze of two poor wasted lungs,
   the thud of earth tossed down to bury dreams,
   the clank of hoes that dig up memories,
   the clash of teeth all chattering from cold,
   the cry of hunger from a stomach wrenching wild,
   the throb-throb of a heart that grieves, forlorn,
   the helpless voice before so many wrecks.
   All sounds of life half lived,
   Of death half died — no poetry, no.

   (Nguyen Chi Thien)

   (a) State the voice and tone of the poem.  (3 marks)

   (b) Explain briefly the theme of the poem.  (4 marks)

   (c) Identify FIVE (5) poetic devices in the poem.  (10 marks)

2. Elaborate briefly on TWO (2) main concerns of each of the following literary theories:

   (a) New Historicism/Cultural materialism  (6 marks)

   (b) Feminism  (6 marks)

   (c) Queer  (6 marks)

3. Describe briefly FIVE (5) main issues of post-colonial literature.  (10 marks)
4. Explain how satire contributes to the form, tone and subject matter of the poem below.

*What if*

What if it were not an apple Adam ate but an avocado.
What if the earth was not round but triangular.
What if we changed the national anthem and gave the mandate
for a new one to the Beatles.
What if the capital of America was Hanoi and the capital of
Indonesia Monaco.
What if precisely at eleven o’clock tonight snow began to fall in
Sahara Row, Jakarta.
What if it could definitely be proved that the technocrats wrote
all the pop-songs.
What if the national debt could be paid off with Rendra’a plays.
What if all that we planned happened and all that happened had
been planned by us.
What if the world’s acoustics were so good that you could hear in
your own bedroom the fall of the bombs in Vietnam, the rustle
of a million refugee feet, the thunder of flood and
earthquake and gentle voices of young people making love,
as well as the roar of factories and of the animals in Africa.
What if the government was allowed to protest and all the people
had to pass judgment in their case.
What if art stopped right where it is and we turned to keeping
animals instead.
What if the time came when we no longer needed to ever ask
again what if.

(Taufik Ismail)

(15 marks)
SECTION B (40 marks)

INSTRUCTIONS:
Answer BOTH questions.

1. Compare Shirley Lim’s *Mr. Tang’s Girl* with Nalla Tan’s *What You Asked* in terms of theme, time, setting and society, and humanistic values. (20 marks)

2. Sisipus in *Mustaqima* is solely created by Mana Sikana to illustrate and mock the present Malay society. Sisipus should not be blamed for his innocence and wrong doings. Do you agree or disagree? Justify your points with suitable and relevant examples. (20 marks)

END OF EXAM PAPER