

HUL 237
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
MAJOR EXAM
NOVEMBER 2009

Maximum Marks: 40
Time: 2 Hours

This is an open book exam. You are free to consult the primary texts. No other material is allowed.

Answer ONE question from each Section. Attempt three questions in all.

Section One: The Reader (15 marks)

1. Michael, the main protagonist, speaks both in a personal capacity as well as a representative of his generation. At what levels do his personal stories intersect with the socio-political context of his times? Is this narrative strategy a successful one?
2. Does the characterization of Hanna as a person with vulnerability allow us to 'understand' her actions as a guard in a concentration camp? Does this narrative strategy lead, ultimately to a 'forgiveness' or at the very least, a lack of condemnation?

Section Two: Never Let Me Go (15 marks)

1. Kazuo Ishiguro uses the realist narrative mode to undercut the dominant view of realism that reality is both objective and re-locatable. Do you agree with this statement? Give examples from the novel to support your answer.
2. Ishiguro's style is characterized by evasion and side-stepping rather than a headlong confrontation or an 'ordinary climax'. Do you agree with this statement? Give examples from the novel to support your answer.

Section Three: Tutorials (10 marks)

1. Which one tutorial question do you think integrated the text(s) most successfully with larger questions? Why? How?