

**LIRA TOWN COLLEGE**  
**BEGINNING OF TERM II EXAMS**  
**S.5 LIT IN ENGLISH P/ 310 / 1 (PROSE AND POETRY)**

**TIME: 1 HOUR**

Read the poem below carefully and answer the questions below it.

**THE MIGRANT HAND**

Alden Nowlan

For how many thousands of yours, for how many millions of baskets, or turnips has this old man knelt in the dust of sund crazy fields? If you ask him, he'll put you off: he's suspicious of questions.

The truth is that Adam, a day out of Eden,  
Started him gathering grapes, old pharaoh  
sold him to Greece; he picked leeds for the Seljuks,  
garlic for atauscans, Goths and Normans,  
Pumkins and maize for the pilgrim Fathers,  
has forgotten them all, forgotten all the past, except  
the last ten hours of blackflies and heat,  
the last two hundred barrels of potatoes.

**Questions:**

1. Explain the meaning of:
  - Sun-crazy fields
  - he'll put you off.
2. Comment on the phrase: "The truth is ...."
3. Quote two phrases that describe the discomforts of this old man's working life.
4. What is the author's attitude to this old labourer?
5. In your own words, show briefly how the poet makes the figure of the migrant hand memorable.

***Good Luck***