



"Investing in Africa's Future"

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES THEOLOGY HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

Humanities Department

HEC 114/HEN 108: PRACTICAL CRITICISM

END OF 1st SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2017

LECTURERS: J. CHITAKATIRA

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer any **three** questions
2. Write legibly.
3. Credit will be given for neat, well-written and lucid work.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

Question 1

What is 'practical criticism'? Explain this concept fully using relevant examples. [20 marks]

Question 2

Define the following concepts fully with the aid of suitable examples; [20 marks]

- a) theme
- b) irony
- c) character
- d) plot

Question 3

Why is practical 'practical criticism' important in the study of literature? [20 marks]

Question 4

Analyse the passage below paying close attention to the language and style. [20 marks]

Her experience had been a of a kind to teach her, rightly or wrongly, that the doubtful honour of a brief transit through a sorry world hardly called for effusiveness, even when the path was suddenly irradiated at some half-way point by day beams rich as hers. But her strong sense that neither she nor any human being deserved less than was given, did not blind her to the fact that there were others receiving less who had deserved more. And in being forced to class herself among the fortunate she did cease to wonder at the persistence of the unseen, when the one to whom such unbroken tranquility had been accorded in the adult stage was she whose youth had seemed to teach that happiness was but the occasional episode in a general drama of pain.

Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Question 5

Examine the poem below paying close attention to the use of symbolism and its overall meaning.

[20 marks]

Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,

Some say in ice.

From what I have tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

Robert Frost

Question 6

Critically analyse the extract below and comment on its dramatic significance. [20 marks]

Arise all the bones of the land. Arise all the bones of the dying cattle. Arise all the bones of the locusts. Wield the power of the many bones scattered across the land and fight so that the land of the ancestors is not defiled by strange feet and strange hands. Do not allow the shrines of your fathers to wilt under the arms of the strangers who behave as if they do not have shrines where they come from. Do not let your ancestors be praised by tongues they do not understand. Rise and clean the sky if it cannot give you rains. Brew beer of the ancestors and ask them to do what you cannot do. What sky will not listen to the thunderous voice of the ancestors? What cloud will not shed its tears to cool the earth when commanded by the thunderous voice of the ancestors? Rise all the insects of the land. Sing the many torturous tunes of the land so that any strange ears will know that an uprising is at hand.

Chenjerai Hove, *Bones*

End of paper.