



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES &
EDUCATION**

HEC 205/ HEN 221: INTRODUCTION TO GENRE: POETRY, DRAMA, THE NOVEL

END OF FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER, 2017

LECTURER: J. MUZAMHINDO

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer **THREE (3)** questions in all.

Answer **ONE** question from **section A**

Answer **ONE** question from **section B**

Answer **ONE** question from **EITHER** section **C** or **D**

All questions carry equal marks.

DO NOT repeat material.

Write legibly.

SECTION A: THE NOVEL (COMPULSORY)

Answer ONE question from this section.

Question 1

"...yes there's disappointment, pain and sorrow. But I say to myself when was it in the past 500 years that Africa has not been in great pain and sorrow and disappointment..." (Chinua Achebe). Basing your answer on the above quotation, discuss the major issues dealt with by writers in the African novel. Use specific examples from any texts of your choice.

Question 2

In the novel *A Man of the people* Chinua Achebe asserts that "*a common saying in the country after Independence was that it didn't matter what you knew but who you knew and believe me it was no idle talk*". Using this as a basis, discuss the major themes that Chinua Achebe deals with in the novel. In your discussion, focus on the effectiveness of the first person (1st) narrative, use of irony and satire.

Question 3

According to the Spectator, "*Ayi Kwei Armah's novel is a fine treatment of the theme of corruption...contamination wrought by poverty*". To what extent do you agree with this summary of *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*?

Question 4

Show how the use of language, imagery, symbolism in any text studied in this course expresses the author's image of independent Africa in general. Illustrate with relevant examples.

SECTION B: DRAMA (COMPULSORY)

Answer ONE question from this section.

Question 5

Discuss the significance of the events of the Mau Mau. In your response, you may explore the effect the movement had on individuals in Kenya.

Question 6

Discuss the major issues dealt with in *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* by Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Micere Mugo.

Question 7

Discuss the literary techniques employed by Ngugi and Mugo in the play *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*. Your discussion should include the effectiveness of these literary techniques in the play.

Answer **ONE** question from **EITHER** section C (**SHORT STORIES**) or D (**POETRY**)

SECTION C: SHORT STORIES (OPTIONAL)

Question 8

Discuss the function of the following in the structure of a short story;

- a. The exposition
- b. The conflict or central action
- c. The climax
- d. The denouement.

Question 9

How effective is the "short story genre" studied on this course in addressing the issues that confront the Congolese Society? Discuss with reference to at least two [2] short stories by Henri Lopes in *Tribaliks*

Question 10

Choose **ONE** story from *Tribaliks* and answer the following questions:

- (a) briefly outline what you liked about the story.
- (b) What was surprising or unexpected about the story?
- (c) What assumptions have you made
 - (i) about the author's tone?
 - (ii) about the author's purpose?
 - (iii) about the audience?

SECTION D: POETRY (OPTIONAL)

Either

Question 13

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

To Whom It May Concern

Bearer
Bare of everything but particulars
Is a Bantu
The language of a people in southern Africa
He seeks to precede from here to there
Please pass him on
Subject to these particulars
He lives
Subject to the provisions
Of the Urban Natives Act of 1925
Amended often
To update it to his sophistication
Subject to the provisions of the said Act
He may roam freely within a prescribed area
Free only from anxiety of conscription
In terms of the Abolition of Passes Act
A latter-day amendment
In keeping with moon-age naming
Bearer's designation is Reference number 417181
And (he) acquires a niche in the said area
As a temporary sojourner
To which he must betake himself
When his services are dispensed with for the day of law and order
As a permanent measure of law and order
Please note
The remains of R/N 417181
Will be laid to rest in peace
On a plot
Set aside for Methodist Xhosas
A measure also adopted
At the express request of the Bantu
In anticipation of any faction fight
Before the day of Judgement

By Sipho Sepamla (1932-2007, South Africa)

- (i) Identify instances of **alliteration** that predominate in this poem. Do you think the alliteration is used to good effect?
- (ii) What sort of English is spoken in this poem? In other words, from what 'division', class or group of people does it emanate? Is it ordinary social language? If, not, what is it? Give examples from the poem to support your answer.
- (iii) What does the poem tell us about **the speaker**, the **laws of the land** and the **subject or person** under discussion?

Or

Question 14

Write a critical evaluation of the following poem. To what extent does it reflect important issues in African Literature? Your response could include discussion of the subject matter, literary devices employed and the poets' attitude towards the subject matter.

Other Forms of slaughter

there were other forms
of slaughter you know
when hands of sandpaper

jar at tender tendons
of daughter drums

when rods of aggression
rip through sealed valves
of reed flute

when innocent virgins
basking in the sun suddenly wake up to
greedy eyes
lecherous tongues
and devouring breath

and gathering their clothes
about them, clamber
hurriedly
up the cliff

But heavy boots
are at their heels
heaving chest pin
them down
then greedy hands
rummaging

tear open
the frills of their
delicate legend
unfolding a lustful era
of anarchic bestiality

yeah!
there were other forms of slaughter

By Catherine Obianuju Acholonu (Nigeria)

End of Paper