



**AFRICA  
UNIVERSITY®**  
*A United Methodist-Related Institution*

*"Investing in Africa's Future"*

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

**HEC 226/HEN 302: AFRICAN-AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN LITERATURE**

**END OF SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

**LECTURER: J. MUZAMHINDO**

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer **THREE (3)** questions in all  
All questions carry equal marks (20).  
DO NOT repeat material.  
Write legibly.



### Question 1

*"I believe in the brotherhood of man, all men, but I don't believe in brotherhood with anybody who doesn't want brotherhood with me. I believe in treating people right, but I'm not going to waste my time trying to treat somebody right who doesn't know how to return the treatment"* [Malcolm X]. Using this quotation as a basis, discuss the issues that African-American writers deal with in their literary works.

### Question 2

*"One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. But today our very own survival depends on our ability to stay awake; to adjust to the new; to remain vigilant and face the challenge of change; the large house in which we live demands that we transform this worldwide neighborhood into a worldwide brotherhood".* (Martin Luther King Jr). What impact did Martin Luther King (Jnr) have on the civil rights movement in America? In your discussion, you may wish to make reference to Martin Luther's six principles of non-violence.

### Question 3

*"Jim Crow was the name of the racial caste system which operated primarily, but not exclusively in the southern states of the United States. Jim Crow was more than a series of rigid anti-black laws. It was a way of life".* Discuss some of the Jim Crow laws and show how they impacted the lives of African-Americans.

### Question 4

*"These were the rhythms of his life : indifference and violence; periods of abstract brooding and periods of intense desire; moments of silence and moments of anger - like water ebbing and flowing from the tug of a far away, invisible force. Being this way was a need as deep as eating. He was like a strange plant blooming in the day and wilting at night, but the sun that made it bloom and the cold darkness that made it wilt were never seen. It was his own sun and darkness, a private and personal sun and darkness"* (Native Son)

Analyze the condition of the African- American in the United States of America as presented in the passage above, and in the context of your study of African-American literature discuss the fate of Bigger Thomas and any two characters from other novels of your choice.

### Question 5

*"The African-American is the metaphor of the United States - its product"* Discuss this statement with close reference to *Native Son*.



### Question 6

Celie's writing letters to God is known as an "epistolary form" Why does Celie write letters to God? What sort of things can she tell God that she cannot tell others? How effective is the epistolary style used by the author in this novel

### Question 7

The African-American theorist, bell hooks argues that the slave narratives connect the plight of the individual slave to that of other slaves as a plea and demand for political and social change. How do two authors you have studied on this course achieve this?

### Question 8

Examine the treatment of the principal characters of any two or three novels you have studied on this course, showing in what ways they share a common African-American destiny.

### Question 9

With reference to any two authors of your choice and using detailed comparison select and discuss which authors you believe have given you the most balanced and convincing insight into the life of the Negro in America.

### Question 10

Give some account of Angelou's interest in the social problems of her time, as illustrated in some of her poems. Exemplify with relevant and specific examples from some of her literary works.

### Question 11

Write a critical analysis of the following poem by Maya Angelou, discussing particularly the subject matter, mood, literary devices employed and the poet's attitude towards her subject matter.

#### **Phenomenal Woman**

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.  
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size  
But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.  
I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms



The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please,  
And to a man,  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me,  
A hive of honey bees.  
I say,  
It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me.  
They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them  
They say they still can't see.  
I say,  
It's in the arch of my back,

The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman

Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.



Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing  
It ought to make you proud.  
I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need of my care,  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

#### Question 11

The historical struggles of the Caribbean islands are reflected in the works of their authors. Discuss the significance of this statement with reference to the creative works of any author of your choice.

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