



"Investing in Africa's Future"

(CSSTHE)

HEN 108/HEC114: Practical Criticism

END OF 2nd SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL/May 2017

LECTURER: MR. J. CHITAKATIRA

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer any three questions. Each question carries 20 marks.
2. Number your answers carefully.
3. Begin each new answer on a new page and write legibly.

Question 1

Discuss the main characteristics of 'practical criticism' using relevant examples. [20 marks]

Question 2

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

- a) imagery
- b) irony
- c) figurative language
- d) character

Question 3

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

Question 4

Critically analyse the passage below paying close attention to the rhetorical strategy used. [20 marks]

As I walked through the wilderness of the world, I lighted on a certain place where there was a den, and laid me down in that place to sleep; and as I slept, I dreamt a dream. I dreamed and behold, I saw a man clothed with rags standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. I looked, and saw him open the book, and read therein; and as he read, he wept and trembled; and not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, what shall I do?

John Bunyan: *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Question 5

Analyse the poem below paying close attention to the use of symbolism. [20 marks]

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.

Then leaf subsides to leaf.

So Eden sank to grief.

So dawn goes down to day.

Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost

Question 6

Examine the extract below and comment on its dramatic significance.

[20 marks]

[Chume rushes in, brandishing a cutlass.]

CHUME: Adulterer! Woman-thief! NA today a go finish you!

[Jero looks round]

JERO: God save us! *[Flees.]*

MEMBER: *[Unaware of what is happening.]* Amen.

[Chume follows Jero, murder-bent.]

Member: Amen. Amen. *[Opens his eyes.]* Thank you, Proph...

[He looks right, left, back, front, but he finds the prophet has really disappeared.]

Prophet! Prophet! *[Turns sharply and rapidly in every direction, shouting.]* Prophet, where are you? Don't leave me, Prophet! Don't leave me, Prophet, don't leave me!

[He looks up slowly, with awe.]

Vanished. Transported. Utterly transmuted. I knew it. I knew I stood in the presence of God...

Wple Soyonka, *The Trials of Brother Jero*.

End of paper.