



"Investing in Africa's Future"

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

END OF FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2016

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

"A writer who writes a book is responsible for all books written before him, for the libraries of the whole world, for the great treasures of the past. A writer who describes simple human love is responsible for all the lovers of the world, for all the cradles and all the gardens. A writer who speaks to people is responsible for all people. How then can a writer keep silent, hide away and betray the child, human happiness, ancient stones and the fate of culture"(Chinua Achebe)
Discuss the significance of the role that literature and the artist play in society. Support your argument by referring to specific literary texts studied in the course.

Question 2

Discuss the issues linked to the emergence and rise of corruption in post-independent Africa. Refer to specific texts you have read.

Question 3

Discuss the literary techniques used by Ayi Kwei Armah in *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* to bring out the theme of corruption.

Question 4

What do you consider to be the major pre-occupations of writers of novels you studied in this course and how successfully do you think they are handled? Refer to any novels of your choice.

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, explore the effect the movement had on the individual characters. Refer closely to Ngugi and Mugo's *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*.

Question 6

Write brief analytical notes on the following, giving concrete examples where possible:

- (a) Exposition songs
- (b) Conflict songs
- (c) Comment songs
- (d) Musical metaphors.
- (e) Parodies.

Question 7

Discuss the *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* as political satire and the core issues involved in that play.

Question 8

Discuss the role played by the woman, boy and girl in *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*.

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

SECTION C: SHORT STORIES (OPTIONAL)

Question 9

Explore Henri Lope's views on the relationship between Africans and Europeans in *Tribaliks*, and discuss the techniques he uses to project his views.

Question 10

Discuss the dramatic function of song and dance in Lope's stories.

Question 11

Discuss the relevance of culture and history, in any one story of your choice from *Tribaliks*.

SECTION D: POETRY (OPTIONAL)

Either

Question 13

Write a critical analysis of the following poem, bringing out, in particular, the effectiveness of the last line as an appropriate conclusion to all the details that have preceded it.

Men in Chains

The train stopped
at a country station

Through sleep-curtained eyes
I peered through the frosty window,
and saw six men,
men shorn
of all human honor
like sheep after shearing,
bleating at the blistering wind,
"Go away! Cold wind! Go away!
Can't you see we are naked?"

They hobbled into the train
on bare feet,
wrists handcuffed,
ankles manacled
with steel rings like cattle at the abattoirs
shying away from the trapdoor.

One man with a head
shaven as a potato

whispered to the rising sun,
a red eye wiped by a tattered
handkerchief of clouds,
"Oh ! Dear Sun!
won't you warm my heart
with hope?"
The train went on its way to nowhere,

Or

Question 14

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

The Unknown Citizen

(To JS/07/M/378)

This Marble Monument
Is Erected by the State)

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.

The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Instalment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace; When there was war, he went.

He was married and added five children to the population,
Which our Eugenist* says was the right number for a parent of his generation.
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

By W.H. Auden (1907-1973)

***Eugenics** - pertaining to race improvement by judicious mating and helping the better stock to prevail

- (i) Who is the **speaker**? What is his **attitude** and **general tone**?
- (ii) What techniques does Auden use to portray the perceived **self-importance** of Government? Exemplify.
- (iii) What are the **methods** used to assess (and gain control) of people? Quote examples from the text to substantiate your answers.

End of Paper