



*"Investing in Africa's Future"*

**(CSSTHE)**

**Department of Education**

**HEN 108: Practical Criticism**

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**January 2018**

**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

Explain this concept of 'practical criticism' fully and show its importance in the study of literature using relevant examples. [20 marks]

### Question 2

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

- a) theme
- b) figurative language
- c) character
- d) plot

### Question 3

Critically analyse 'practical criticism' as an approach to 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

Analyse the poem below paying close attention to subject, theme, language and style. [20 marks]

#### Night

Alas! So all things now do hold their peace,



Heaven and earth disturbed in no thing.  
 The beasts, the air, the birds their song do cease;  
 The nights chare the stars about doth bring;                      chariot  
 Calm is the sea; the waves work less and less,  
 So am not I, whom love, alas! doth wring,  
 Bringing before my face the great increase  
 Of my desires, whereat I weep and sing,  
 In joy and woe, as in doubtful ease:  
 For my sweet thoughts sometime do pleasure bring;  
 But by and by, the cause of my disease  
 Gives me a pang, that inwardly doth sting,  
 When that I think what grief it is again,  
 To live and lack the thing that should rid my pain.

**Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey**

**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***