

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER.**

Candidate’s Name: .....

Signature:.....

**208**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**2 Hours**

**UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

**Uganda Certificate of Education**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

**Attempt all questions in sections 1 and 2.**

**For sections 3 and 4, attempt the questions on the books you have studied.**

**SECTION 1. SHORT ANSWER GENERAL QUESTIONS.**

- 1. By use of examples, explain the meaning of ‘oral literature’.
- 2. Nearly all societies have oral literature. Oral forms serve different purposes according to each society. The importance society attaches to each form of oral literature may vary. With reference to your own society, explain two uses of oral literature.
- 3. Reading a book is like taking a journey or travelling from one destination to another. Many authors have adopted this ‘journey-like’ approach as their style of

writing. We enjoy reading books of writers when we feel they are taking us on this journey. Using your knowledge of literature, identify the term given to the action that follows the climax.

4. Read the excerpt below and answer the question that follows:

*“Let us go then, you and I,  
When the evening is spread out against the sky  
Like a patient etherized upon a table;  
Let us go, through certain half-deserted streets,  
To lead you to an overwhelming question...  
Oh, do not ask, “What is it?”  
Let us go and make our visit.  
In the room the women come and go  
Talking of Michelangelo.”*

With specific reference to the above piece, identify who the persona is.

5. People use different styles in communicating their ideas. Such styles include the use of similes, metaphors, personification and many others. What is term is collectively used to describe the above style?
6. When a farmer sets off to the garden, he needs a hoe, an axe and a panga. Similarly, a playwright needs tools to enable him write a play. Suggest one of the tools a playwright needs to write a play.
7. In the play, ‘*The Burdens*’, Wamala’s family faced several challenges such as poverty and drinking. These problems were likely to breakdown Wamala’s family. Kaija, Wamala’s son, was able to mediate between the mother and father. With reference to this scenario, describe who a hero is.
8. Read the excerpt below and identify two elements of a novel employed by the writer.

*Mr Smith said to his interpreter: ‘tell them to go away from here. This is the house of God and I will not live to see it desecrated.’*

*Okeke interpreted wisely to the spirits and leaders of Umuofia: 'The white man says he is happy you have come to him with your grievances, like friends. He will be happy if you leave the matter in his hands.'*

*We cannot leave the matter in his hands because he does not understand our customs, just as we do not understand his. We say he is foolish because he does not know our ways, and perhaps he says we are foolish because we do not know his. Let go away.'*

*Mr Smith stood his ground. But he could not save his church. When the egwugwu went away the red – earth church which Mr Brown had built was a pile of earth and ashes. And for the moment the spirit of the clan was pacified.*

9. Prose and poetry are some of the genres of literature. They are similar in certain ways and different in many others. Describe one difference between the two genres.
10. "Purple puppies like playing on playground", What is this phrase an example of?

## **SECTION 2. POETRY**

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

### **GROWING UP WITH POETRY**

**by David Rubadiri (Theme Freedom)**

#### **A Freedom Song**

Atieno washes dishes,  
Atieno plucks the chicken,  
Atieno gets up early,  
Beds her sacks down in the kitchen,  
Atieno eight years old  
Atieno yo.

Since she is my sister's child  
Atieno needs no pay  
While she works my wife can sit

sewing every sunny day,  
With her earnings I support  
*Atieno yo.*

Atieno's sly and jealous  
Bad example to the kids  
Since she minds them, like a schoolgirl  
wants their dresses, shoes and beads.  
Atieno ten years old,  
*Atieno yo.*

Now my wife has gone to study  
Atieno is less free,  
don't I feed her, school my own ones,  
Pay the party, union fee  
All for progress? Aren't you grateful,  
*Atieno yo?*

Visitors need much attention,  
Specially when I work nights.  
That girl stays too long at market  
Who will teach her what is right?  
Atieno rising fourteen,  
*Atieno yo.*

Atieno's had a baby  
So we know that she is bad  
Fifty – fifty it may live  
To repeat the life she had,  
ending in post partum bleeding  
*Atieno yo.*

Atieno's soon replaced  
Meat and sugar more than all  
She ate in such a narrow life  
Were lavished on her funeral  
Atieno's gone to glory  
*Atieno yo.*

**Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye (Kenya)**

**Questions**

- (a) Who is the speaker in the poem? (2marks)
- (b) What is the poem about? (5marks)
- (c) Describe the kind of life Atieno leads. (3marks)
- (d) What makes this poem appealing? (4marks)
- (e) If you had the opportunity, what advice would you give to:
  - (i) Atieno
  - (ii) Atieno's care taker about her situation? (2marks)
- (f) What feelings are aroused in you towards:
  - i) Atieno (2marks)
  - ii) Atieno's care taker (2marks)

**SECTION 3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS.**

**(1) Either .**

**THE RETURN OF MGOFU by Francis Imbuga**

**Mdanya:** It's all in the hands of the one above.

**Mhando:** she and I have discussed this matter at length. Last night, we concluded our discussion on

whether I should stay on or not. Mama Enos prevailed upon me to heed the people's wish.

She gave two conditions for the agreements ... The first is to spare no effort in trying to bring

Mgofu Ngoda back, even if it is for only a few hours (*Mtange and Mdanya look at each*

*other, surprised.*) The second condition will surprise you even more. Mama Enos wants me

to get a second Wife before I start my second term of office. What do you think?

**Mtange:** Your Excellency, we will need to sleep over that one.

**Mdanya:** But there is no need for that. Your Excellency, the idea of getting a second wife came from the

first lady. It's an excellent idea. In fact, I would suggest that we Sujas express our solidarity

with you following in your footsteps.

**Mtange:** Your Excellency, as I said, we will need to sleep over this one. Suja Mdanya is not unwell.

**Mhando:** Very well then, we shall settle it at our next meeting, it should be in two days' time. That's all.

Thank you for your promptness. (*Sujas Mtange and Mdanya Stand up and are escorted out by Mhanda.*) Good day.

**Sujas:** (*Off stage.*) Good day, Your Excellency.

### **Questions.**

- (a) What happens immediately before the passage? (5marks)
- (b) Describe the characters of Mhando in the passage. (4marks)
- (c) Identify the themes portrayed in the passage? (6marks)
- (d) What happens immediately after the passage? (5marks)

**(2) OR**

**THINGS FALL APART by Chinua Achebe.**

For a brief moment the onrush of the egwugwu was checked by the unexpected composure of the two men. But it was only a momentary check, like the tense silence between blasts of thunder. The second onrush was greater than the first. It swallowed up the two men. Then an unmistakable voice rose above the tumult and there was immediate silence. Space was made around the two men, and Ajofia began to speak.

Ajofia was the leading egwugwu of Umuofia. He was the head and spokesman of the nine ancestors who administered justice in the clan. His voice was unmistakable and so he was able to bring immediate peace to the agitated spirits. He then addressed Mr Smith, and as he spoke clouds of smoke rose from his head. 'The body of the white man I salute you,' he said, using the language in which immortals spoke to men.

'The body of the white man, do you know me?' he asked.

Mr Smith looked at his interpreter, but Okeke, who was a native of distant Umuru, was also at a loss.

Ajofia laughed in his guttural voice. It was like the laugh of rusty metal. 'They are strangers, 'he said' 'and they are ignorant. But let that pass. 'He turned round to his comrades and saluted them, calling them the fathers of Umuofia. He dug his rattling spear into the ground and it shook with metallic life. Then he turned once more to the missionary and his interpreter.

'Tell the white man that he will not do him any harm, 'he said to the interpreter. 'tell him to go back to his house and leave us alone. We liked his brother who was with us before. He was foolish, but we liked him, and for his sake we shall not harm his

brother. But this shrine which is built must be destroyed. We shall no longer allow it in our midst. It has bred untold abominations and we have come to put an end to it. 'He turned to his comrades, 'Fathers of Umuofia, I salute you,' and they replied with one guttural voice. He turned again to the missionary. 'You can stay with us if you like our ways. You can workshop your own god. It is good that a man should worship the gods and the spirits of his fathers. Go back to your house so that you may not hurt. Our anger is great but we have held it down so that we can talk to you.'

Mr Smith said to his interpreter: 'tell them to go away from here. This is the house of God and I will not live to see it desecrated.'

Okeke interpreted wisely to the spirits and leaders of Umuofia: 'The white man says he is happy you have come to him with your grievances, like friends. He will be happy if you leave the matter in his hands.'

We cannot leave the matter in his hands because he does not understand our customs, just as we do not understand his. We say he is foolish because he does not know our ways, and perhaps he says we are foolish because we do not know his. Let go away.'

Mr Smith stood his ground. But he could not save his church. When the egwugwu went away the red – earth church which Mr Brown had built was a pile of earth and ashes. And for the moment the spirit of the clan was pacified.

### Questions

- (a) What immediate events have led to this extract? 4marks.
- (b) How do the events in the extract lead to Okonkwo's downfall?  
6marks.



(c) Describe the character of Rev James Smith as portrayed in the extract.

4marks

(d) With examples, discussed the themes portrayed in the passage.

6marks.

## **SECTION 4. ESSAY QUESTIONS.**

**(3) Either**

With clear illustrations from the novel-**Grief Child**, explain how the things happening in there are similar to what happens in your communities. **(20 marks)**

**(4) Or**

With clear illustrations drawn from the play-**The Heart Soothers**, explain how the things happening in there are similar to what happens in your communities. **(20marks)**

# MARKING GUIDE FOR LITERATURE SAMPLE QUESTIONS.

## SECTION 1. SHORT ANSWER GENERAL QUESTIONS. (10 marks)

1. By use of examples, explain the meaning of 'oral literature'.

**Response**-Form of verbal art. (1mark)

**Examples:** proverbs, riddles, folklore, lullabies (any 2x1=1mark)

2. Nearly all societies have oral literature. Oral forms serve different purposes according to each society. The importance society attaches to each form of oral literature may vary. With reference to your own society, explain two uses of oral literature.

**Response**-It is the basis for written literature.

-for entertainment. (any 2x1=2 marks)

3. Reading a book is like taking a journey or travelling from one destination to another. Many authors have adopted this 'journey-like' approach as their style of writing. We enjoy reading books of writers when we feel they are taking us on this journey. Using your knowledge of literature, identify the term given to the action that follows the climax.
- i. **Response**-Falling action (2marks)

4. Read the excerpt below and answer the question that follows:

*"Let us go then, you and I,  
Like a patient etherized upon a table;  
To lead you to an overwhelming question...  
Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"  
In the room the women come and go  
Talking of Michelangelo."*

With specific reference to the above piece, identify who the persona is.

- i. **Response**- first person speaker/an explorer (2marks)

5. People use different styles in communicating their ideas. Such styles include the use of similes, metaphors, personification and many others. What is term is collectively used to describe the above style?

**Response** -figurative language (2marks)

6. When a farmer sets off to the garden, he needs a hoe, an axe and a panga. Similarly, a playwright needs tools to enable him write a play. Suggest one of the tools a playwright needs to write a play.

**Response**-dialogue, character, asides, setting (Any 2x1=2marks)

7. In the play, '*The Burdens*', Wamala's family faced several challenges such as poverty and drinking. These problems were likely to breakdown Wamala's family. Kaija, Wamala's son, was able to mediate between the mother and father. With reference to this scenario, describe who a hero is.

**Response**- A character with admirable qualities. (2marks)

8. Read the excerpt below and identify two elements of a novel employed by the writer.

*Mr Smith said to his interpreter: 'tell them to go away from here. This is the house of God and I will not live to see it desecrated.' Okeke interpreted wisely to the spirits and leaders of Umuofia: 'The white man says he is happy you have come to him with your grievances, like friends. He will be happy if you leave the matter in his hands.' We cannot leave the matter in his hands because he does not understand our customs, just as we do not understand his. We say he is foolish because he does not know our ways, and perhaps he says we are foolish because we do not know his. Let go away.' Mr Smith stood his ground. But he could not save his church. When the egwugwu went away the red – earth church which Mr Brown had built was a pile of earth and ashes. And for the moment the spirit of the clan was pacified.*

**Response**- Plot, setting, characters (any 2x1=2marks)

9. Prose and poetry are some of the genres of literature. They are similar in certain ways and different in many others. Describe one difference between the two genres.

**Response-** Poetry does not follow the rules of grammar while prose follows

these rules. (2marks)

10. “Purple puppies like playing on playground”, What is this phrase an example of?

**Response-** Alliteration. (2marks)

## **SECTION 2. POETRY**

### **A Freedom Song by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye (Theme of Freedom)**

#### **Suggested Responses.**

(A) Who is the speaker in the poem? (2 marks)

First person speaker/Atieno's maternal uncle.

**Any 2×1 =2 marks.**

(B) What is the poem about? (5 marks)

The poem is about a child who suffers and is mistreated by her uncle. She is exploited, discriminated and neglected which leads to a pregnancy during adolescence. At delivery, she over bleeds during delivery and ends up dying leaving a child behind. At her burial, there is celebration. **(Any 5×1=5 marks)**

C. Describe the kind of life Atieno leads? (3marks)

- Atieno leads a miserable life.
- She lives a life of exploitation and neglect.
- She lives a life of discrimination and agony.

Any 3×1=3marks

(D) What makes this poem appealing? (4marks)

- Title
- Style that's descriptive language, irony, repetition, etc.
- Lessons and relevance to society.

The subject.

**Any 4×1=4marks**

(E) What advice would you give to Atieno or her care taker about her situation?  
(2marks)

**Atieno**

I would advise Atieno to report her situation to concerned authorities like the police and bodies that fight for children's rights. 1 mark.

**Atieno's caretaker.**

I would advise Atieno's uncle to treat Atieno with fairness and compassion the way he treats his own children. 1 mark.

**(F) What feelings are aroused in you towards:**

(1). Atieno

**(2marks)**

- Sympathy/ pity
- Sadness
- Empathy

**Any 2×1=2 marks.**

ii). Atieno's care taker

**(2marks)**

- Bitterness
- Anger
- Contempt
- Disappointment.

**Any 2×1=2marks**

### SECTION 3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS.

***Either. DRAMA.***

**THE RETURN FO MGOFU** by Francis Imbuga

(a)What happens immediately before the passage? (5marks)

Mhando hears the news about the existence of the son of mgofu Ngonda who has become a great seer. He sends his men to Nderema to affirm the news. Mhando gets disturbing dreams. He discusses the issue of mgofu and leadership with mama Enos. He calls for his elders for the meeting to discuss the matter at home.

**Any5×1= 5 marks.**

(b)Describe the characters of Muhando and Mdanya in the passage. (4marks).

Mdanya:

- Religious/ God fearing.
- Rash
- Polygamous

**Anyone with example is equal to two marks**

Muhando:

- Respectful
- Considerate / understanding
- Democratic

**Anyone with example is equal to two marks.**

© Identify the themes portrayed in the passage? (6marks)

- Democracy
- Tradition vs Modernity
- Change
- Reconciliation.      **Any 3×2= 6marks**

**What happens immediately after the passage? (5marks)**

Mhando sends emissaries to invite Mgofu to attend Remembrance Day celebrations. The emissaries meet mgofu Ngoda nd his daughter. They are told that mama Enos is dead and is to be mourned for fourteen days. The emissaries return back, Ngonda comes with his daughter to attend the Remembrance Day celebrations. As Ngonda is addressing the audience he starts coughing and is taken off stage.

**Any 4×1 = 4 marks.**

**OR. NOVEL.**

**THINGS FALL APART by Chinua Achebe**

**a. What immediate events have led to this extract?**

The replacement of Mr. Brown with Rev James Smith who was intolerant of ways of the Africans and kept oppressing them hence coming to him seeking an explanation on how they are being treated.      **Any4×1= 4 marks.**

**b. How do the events in the extract lead to Okonkwo's downfall?**

In the extract, we see the Africans destroying Rev Robbins Church which gets them into trouble as the messengers are ordered to humiliate them yet they are African leaders. This evokes Okonkwo's anger hence ending up killing one of the messengers. He later on hangs himself.

**Any 3x2=6marks**

**c Describe the character of Rev James Smith as portrayed in the extract**

- He is protective of the church.
- He is uncompromising.

**Any 2x2=4marks**

**d. Identify the themes in the passage.**

- Religion
- Tradition
- Conflict

**Any 3x2=6marks**



## SECTION 4. ESSAY QUESTIONS .

*Either.*

### **Either**

With clear illustrations from the novel-**Grief Child**, explain how the things happening in there are similar to what happens in your community. (20 marks)

- Introduction-briefly explain what the novel is about.
- Content: Discuss how the events, characters, themes, lessons, etc explored in the novel relate to their communities -drawing very clear similarities that exist between the two.
- Provide ample and clear illustrations
- Conclusion.

**OR.**

With clear illustrations drawn from the play-**The Heart Soothers**, explain how the things happening in there are similar to what happens in your community. (20marks) `

- Introduction-briefly explain what the play is about.
- Content: Discuss how the events, characters, themes, lessons, etc explored in the play relate to their communities -drawing very clear similarities that exist between the two.
- Provide ample and clear illustrations
- Conclusion.

The End.