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LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Paper 1

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2 1/2 hours



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Uganda Certificate of Education

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

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2 hours 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Answer five questions in all, on five books, choosing two questions from Section A and three books from Section B, one of which must be on poetry.

In Section A, you must answer one question from sub-section (i) and one question from sub section (ii). You must cover one play and one novel.

Any additional question(s) attempted will not be marked.

SECTION A

Sub-section (i)

Choose one of the passages 1 to 4, read it carefully and then answer the questions following it as concisely as possible.

Either

1. FRANCIS IMBUGA: The Return of Mgofu

Mtange: Disturbed? That's disturbing.

What is the matter, your majesty?

Mhando: I'm your leader. Therefore, Mndika's problems will always be my problems. (*Long pause*) Why is it that our people do not learn from the past?

Mdanya: Your majesty, we have lived with this problem all along.

What is so special about it now? Why should it disturb you now?

Mhando: (*Trying to control his anger*)

I will pretend not to have heard those words, Suja Mdanya. Do you... so you think because we have lived with these problems we should now ignore them completely? Raise our hands to the skies and say we are defeated?

Mdanya: Forgive me your majesty; it was a slip of the tongue.

Mhando: (*Angrily*) A slip of the tongue.... When our crops are not withering in the fields, they are drowning in roaring floods. And while we live with all these uncertainties, the neighbours around us sing in jubilation because their granaries are bursting with plenty. Why, I ask you, why? Is it because of the one above?

Mtange: No. work of the one above? It's us. No, it can't be. It must be us. That has never crossed my mind before. Look at the size of Mndika, four times the size of Suguta to the west. But just yesterday, they beat us again, four to one. Now is this a matter to blame our creator for?

Mdanya: (*Apologetically*) I said it was a slip of the tongue. I didn't sleep well last night.

Mtange: This is not the first time Suguta has shamed us in our very backyard. When famine strikes us, it is suguta we rely on, and now their children are beginning to fill our schools.

Mhando: But why?

Mtange: Well, perhaps it is because their land is more fertile than ours.

Mdanya: But that is not our fault.

They were given that land by colonialists. They were left with large factories, good roads, big jobs in international organizations and all. So how can anyone blame us? Were we not discriminated against? And that is no slip of the tongue.

Mtange: (*Pacing up and down*) Your majesty, it's true what Suja Mdanya has said. But he is forgetting one thing. The colonialist left us many, many years ago. For how long shall we continue to blame them for our short comings? For how long shall we blame the people of Suguta for our woes? Yes, for how long shall we blame fate for where we ate?

Mhando: Control yourself, Suja Mtange, these matters demand long hours of meditation. So be patient...

Questions:

- (a) What happens just before the passage? (05 marks)
- (b) Describe the character of Mhando. (06 marks)
- (c) Explain the major theme brought out in the passage. (04 marks)
- (d) What happens immediately after this passage? (05 marks)

Or:

2. **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: The Merchant of Venice**

Antonio: I have heard

Your grace hath tane great pains to quality
His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate
And that no lawful means can carry me
Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose
My patience to his fury, and am armed
To suffer with a quietness of spirit
The very tyranny and rage of his.

Duke: Go one and call the Jew into the court.

Salerio: He is ready at the door, he comes, my lord.

Duke: Make room and let him stand before our face.

Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too, that thou but leadest this
fashion of thy malice

To the last hour of act, and then its thought

Thou'it show thy mercy and remorse more strange.

Than is thy strange apparent cruelty.

And where thou now exact the penalty

Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh

Thou will not only loose the forfeiture

But, touched with human gentleness and love,

Forgive a moiety of the principal,

Glancing an eye of pity on his losses

That have of late so huddled on his back,

Enow to press a royal merchant down

And pluck commiseration of his state

From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of flint,

From stubborn Turks, and Tartars never trained

To offices of tender courtesy.

We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.

Questions:

(a) What leads to this passage? (04 marks)

(b) Describe the relationship between Shylock and Antonio in the passage.

(c) Identify and briefly explain two themes in the passage. (06 marks)

(d) How does shylock react to the duke's advice and why? (04 marks)

(06 marks)

Or

3. JOHN STEINBECK: The Pearl

And then from above came a little murmuring cry. The watcher turned his head to listen and then he stood up, and one of the sleepers stirred on the ground and a awakened and asked quietly, "what is it?"

"I don't know," said the watcher.

"It sounded like a cry, almost like a human - like a baby,"

The man who had been sleeping said, "you can't tell. Some coyote bitch with a litter. I've heard a coyote pup cry like a baby."

The sweat rolled in drops down Kino's forehead and fell into his eyes and burned them.

The little cry came again and watcher looked up the side of the hill to the dark cave.

"Coyote maybe," he said, and Kino heard the harsh click as he cocked the rifle. "If it's a coyote, this will stop it," the watcher said as he raised the gun.

Kino was in mid-leap when the gun crashed and the barrel- flash made a picture on his eyes. The great knife swung and crunched hollowly. It bit through neck and deep into chest and Kino was a terrible machine now.

He grasped the rifle even as he wrenched free his knife. It is strength and his movement and his speed were a machine. He whirled and struck the head of the seated

man like a melon. The third man scrambled a way like a crab, slipped into the pool, and then began to climb frantically, to climb up the cliff where the water pencilled down. His hands and feet threshed in the tangle of the wild grapevine, and he whimpered and gibbered as he tried to get up. But Kino had become as cold and deadly as steel.

Questions:

- (a) What has led to this passage? (06 marks)
- (b) What does the passage show about Kino's characters? (04 marks)
- (c) Why does Kino sweat in the passage? (04 marks)
- (d) Explain what happens immediately after this passage. (06 marks)

Or

4. LAWRENCE DARMANI: Grief Child

Nimo felt grateful to the people of the small village for their help and support during the period of mourning. He knew, however, that nobody, nothing, could replace his wife and daughter. He wondered a thousand times how he could live without his wife. His sister Goma had gone back to Buama.

Only twice in the past two months had he been to his cocoa farm, just to look around only once to his rice farm. As he lay in bed that morning, he decided that he would go and visit the rice farm. He woke Adu.

"Go and ask Mahama if he can go with us to see the farm this morning."

Normally there was no question about asking Mahama whether or not he wanted to go to the farm, but he was sick; he had been sick since the bad news hit the house. Adu returned with the message that Mahama said he was not feeling well.

"Maybe his head aches again," Nimo said as he got ready to go to the farm. He went to Mahama's room.

"How is it?" Nimo asked Mahama,

"Have you taken some of the medicine?"

"Yes. It is becoming better than it was in the night."

"Take some rest, Mahama. Adu and I will go to the rice farm and be back soon."

The sun was already rising above the trees when Nimo and his son made their way towards the swampy area of the land. When they got to the farm they saw that last night's rain had done some damage. Large areas had been swallowed up in the floods. As they stood watching,

Adu could hear frogs croaking far and near as if in mockery. The river itself was flooded; but they were at least thankful that the log which they always used to cross the river was intact. Nimo and Adu walked towards the log. Nimo deliberately struck the flat side of his machete against a tree and shouted at the same time. A great flock of birds flew up over their heads.

Some of them simply perched in the trees ready to return to their booty.

Cautiously Nimo stood on the log bridge

He was followed by Adu. The river rushed beneath them. Gradually they inched along.

Questions:

- (a) What has led to this passage? (05 marks)
- (b) Describe the character of Nimo as revealed in this passage. (04 marks)
- (c) What feelings do you have towards Nimo? (04 marks)
- (d) What happens immediately after the passage? (07 marks)

Sub-Section (Ii)

Answer one question from one book only.

If your answer in sub-section (i) was on a play, now select a novel; but if your answer in sub-section (i) was on a novel, you must now select a play.

FRANCIS IMBUGA: The Return of Mgofu

Either

5. What does *The Return of Mgofu* teach its audience? (20 marks)

Or

6. Discuss the effect of violence on society in the play *The Return of Mgofu*.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: The Merchant of Venice

Either

7. Why is Portia an admirable character in the play *The Merchant of Venice*?

Or

8. With close reference to the play *The Merchant of Venice*, what lessons do you learn from Shylock?

JOHN STEINBECK: The Pearl

Either

9. Discuss the relationship between Juana and Kino throughout the novel *The Pearl*.

Or

10. Explain how the pearl of the world is evil in the novel *The Pearl*.

LAWRENCE DARMANI: Grief Child

Either

11. Describe how Yaro influences Adu's life in the novel *Grief Child*.

Or

12. Discuss the instances of goodness versus evil in the novel *Grief Child*.

SECTION B

In this section, answer three questions covering three books. One of the questions must be chosen from a poetry text.

SYLVESTER ONZIVUA: The Heart Soothers

Either

13. Explain the role of Florence in the play *The Heart Soothers*

Or

14. What lessons do you draw from the play?

OKIYA OMTATAH OKOIT: Voice of the People

Either

15. Explain the importance of Simbi forest in the play *Voice of the People*.

Or

16. What problems are faced by the people in the play *Voice of the People*?

VICTOR BYAMAZIMA: Shadows of Time

Either

17. Describe Jane's character as presented in the novel *Shadows of Time*.

Or

18. Show how the title *Shadows of Time* is related to what takes places in the novel.

CHINUA ACHEBE: Things Fall Apart

Either:

19. How does Ikemefuna influence events in the novel *Things Fall Apart*?

Or

20. Describe the character of Obierika in the novel.

DANIEL MENGARA: Mema

Either

21. Discuss the theme of women emancipation in the novel ***Mema***.

Or

22. Explain the challenges Ntsame Minlame faces in the novel ***Mema***.

DAVID RUBADIRI: Growing Up With Poetry

Either

23. Read the poem below and answer the questions after it.

My will

Son, my will,
albeit premature
when the palm readers
divine
for me an extended
life line

Besides who knows what
worth bequeathing
I could acquire
before the lifeline
inches to the darker side
of my hand.

But for a start
the gift of song,
this sweet immediate source
of release was not given me
so I leave it for you in the hope
that God takes hints

Then the right to call
all older than you
Miss, mister or mistress
in the layered love of our
simplest ways,
eat each days salt and bread
with praise,
and may you never know hungry
and books
I mean the love of them.

May you like me earn good
Friends
but just to be sure,
love books.
when bindings fell apart
they can be fixed
you will find
that is not always so
with friendships.
And no gold.
Too many die/kill for it
besides its face is too bold.
This observation is the
last, I give:
most times assume a
Patina a shade subdued
So when you bloom they
will value it.

Lorna Goodison (Jamaica)

Questions:

- (a) Identify the speaker in the poem (01 mark)
- (b) What kind of person does the speaker want his son to be? (05 marks)
- (c) How are books better than friends according to the poem? (02 marks)
- (d) What, according to the poem, is the cause of numerous deaths in society? (02 marks)
- (e) Explain the meaning of the following phrases as used in the poem:
- (i) albeit premature (01 mark)
 - (ii) God takes hint (01 mark)
 - (iii) and no gold (01 mark)
 - (iv) love books (01 mark)
- (f) What makes the above poem interesting? (06 marks)

Or:

24. Select any poem you have read from **Growing Up with Poetry** by **David Rubadiri** on the theme of **Separation** and use it to answer the following questions:

- (a) State the name of the poet and the title of the poem. (02 marks)
- (b) Explain what the poem is about. (05 marks)
- (c) What does the poem say about separation? (04 marks)
- (d) How is the poem relevant to your society? (03 marks)
- (e) Explain what makes the poem interesting. (06 marks)

A.D AMATESITE: An Anthology of East African Poetry

Either:

25. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

Illegal brew

Dr Noah K. Ndosi

He was a man
of favoured health,
whose speech was charity

a successful player
in the mysterious game
of fluctuating life

The beginning
was only a few sips;
but each time,
he hit the fullness
of bulging calabashes

Time pulled on;
his head entered a pot
and remained firmly stuck in;
his head flooding
with intoxicating
currents of alcohol,
he is now the last
to leave the beer markets

Despite the floods of warnings
from families and friends,
he firmly transplanted
his young life
on the lip-burning
illegal brew

Of late,
his bowels have become
visibly distended;
his breath short
and shallow,
he also drags thickly
swollen limbs

Beyond despair,
He sees the leveller coming
To add him to a list
Like some headless neighbour
Who perished the same way.

Questions:

- (a) Who is speaking in the poem? (01 mark)
- (b) What is the poem about? (06 marks)
- (c) What are the effects of the illegal brew on the **he** in the poem? (03 marks)
- (d) What is your attitude towards the **he** in the poem? (04 marks)
- (e) What lessons do you draw from the poem? (06 marks)

Or:

26. Select a poem by **Humphrey Webuye** and use it to answer the following

questions:

- (a) State the title of the poem. (02 marks)
- (b) What is the poem about? (06 marks)
- (c) Why have you chosen this poem? (08 marks)
- (d) What is the relevance of this poem to your society? (04 marks)

END