

3. *Grief Child*: Lawrence Darmani

(a) What has led to this passage in novel? (5 Marks)

Two months have now passed since the horrific death of Birago and Yaa, crashed under a tree branch felled by a strong storm. Susa is still struggling to come to terms with this tragedy. Yaro has a biblical interpretation to this loss in his attempt to console his little friend, Adu, who is still grieving the loss of his dear ones.

(b) Describe the character of Nimo as brought out in this passage. (4 Marks)

- Nimo is appreciative for the help of the villagers during his grief.
- He is also responsible as seen with the concern that he shows towards Mahama's health.
- He is caring/loving. Seeks to know if Mahama has taken medication for the fever.
- Nimo is hardworking. He thinks about his crops and the farm. (Any 4 x 1)

(c) What feelings do you have towards Nimo in this passage? (4 Marks)

- I am full of *admiration* for his courage in trying to put aside his sorrow.
- I am also *pleased* by the love that he has towards Mahama who is unwell.
- I *pity* him that it is not easy to get over the loss of dear ones.
- I am *inspired* by Nimo's love for the garden yet he is still in pain. (Any 4 x 1)

(d) What happens immediately after this passage and how does it affect Adu? (7 Marks)

Nimo and Adu inspect the damage that the heavy rainfall has done on the rice field. Standing on the log that acts as a bridge cautiously, suddenly Adu is terrified by the birds flying towards him. He slips and falls into the raging river. Nimo instinctively throws the machete in his hands and dives to save his son. He pulls Adu out of the river to safety but his force ends up pushing him below the river and drowning in the process. When Adu clears his vision he can't see his father anywhere.

Grief Child. Lawrence Darmani

9. What factors help Adu to overcome the grief of the loss of his family?

Approach: The student must be aware of who Adu is and what he goes through, but most importantly, show that Adu's ability to overcome his pain is a combination of how he is raised and other forces as they turn out in this gripping tale.

Adu is the protagonist and the son of Nimo and Birago. The couple is a settler family in the land of Yeboah in Susa. Adu is a twelve-year old boy at the beginning of the story. The story surrounds the tragedy that befalls his family after being wiped out by the merciless hand of fate. It is the life-after that this question attempts to examine, most particularly the forces that help the little boy to overcome his grief and emerge stronger than before as an adult.

- Yaro's biblical teachings and contribution of Christianity is one of those strong factors that help Adu in his indescribable agony. At one point the helpless boy contemplates committing suicide when he feels that life has become worthless. However, the voice of Yaro's teaching echoes in his brain and the evil intentions get washed away from his mind. He is reminded of the "unGodliness" of suicide and how bad it is in the face of Christ. It is this little whiff of faith that saves the boy from going to his creator at such a tender age. The biggest credit cannot be denied of Yaro for his earlier apprenticeship.
- Nimo's own parental values hold another of those strong contributors in the success of Adu in overcoming his grief. From a tender age Adu is taught the value of friendship and social networks by his father. He is quick to make friends with Anane, the school prefect and later confidant in the grueling life that Adu encounters in Susa. Anane's companionship is priceless and timely: at one moment, Anane orients him to life in Buama and helps in settling down in the strict school with school bullies. The spirit of friendship thus lessens Adu's pain to great extent.
- Worth mentioning is the gift of humility that is inculcated in Adu by both Nimo and Birago. Adu demonstrates this virtue at school when he is given a punishment by teacher Ofori. It is later a pillar that he will use to help by adopting this boy of grief. Any other boy Adu's age would have shown the highest belligerence in the face of his woes but Adu is the unlikely opposite amidst the hardship that he is faced with under the house of Goma.
- In a similar line, Adu is raised with the spirit of Nimo's selflessness in the execution of the gift of treating the sick with herbs. He is warned never to

take any gifts in return or cash rewards whenever he treats anyone. It is a warning that clings to Adu like a bad cough all the way and it proves helpful. At one moment he comes to the rescue of Anane, who suffers a snake bite. This help will later be reciprocated by Anane through the revelation of Goma's most mysterious secret. It also endears Adu very much to Anane and his mother in Buama, who find sympathy in the life of the helpless boy.

- Adu is also well-groomed in the chores that matter for a man. He is quite hardworking and one who easily adopts to any manner task given to him. Despite his fever, Adu is able to fill up the water drum and perform all the chores that he is told to do by his insensitive aunt, Goma.
 - He is also persistent and focused in his drive for success. The devotion that Adu throws in his class work cannot be underestimated by any means. Aware of his predicament, he is able to read hard that Ofori and Becky are able to parent him to the very end.
 - The help that Appiah and Mama Boye offer cannot be downplayed either in Adu's journey of fighting grief. They take him up like their own son when Adu has nobody else to turn to. Mama Boye even comforts the boy by sharing a bed with him. Elsewhere, Appiah picks him up and attempts to return Adu to Susa. All these gestures lessen Adu's grief in the course of the story.
 - Teacher Ofori and his fiancé Becky Annan are without a doubt the greatest earthly gift that the heavens bestow upon Adu. He is taken up as their child and ends up living with the couple even after their transfer from Buama. The couple is the reason that Adu can smile and face life with hope at the end of the tale.
 - Adu's triumph at the end after the death of his father, mother and sister is without a doubt a journey of life. The ability to withstand all the challenges is a combination of numerous factors as elaborated above.
- NB this question requires a response that goes beyond character traits.

(Mark as a whole 20 Marks)

10. How relevant is *Grief Child* to you as a student of literature?

Approach: This is an application question that is not as easy to respond to as most other scope questions. Students should be warned against attempting such questions unless they have been prepared well.

Relevance refers to the "relatability" of the text to life or the immediate community of the learner. A general introduction of the text is thus a matter of priority at the start before a student can build on their response.

The novel, *Grief Child* explores the life of a little boy Adu whose family is wiped out of the face of the earth by the hand of fate and forces beyond man's control. It centers around the life that Adu is forced to navigate in the absence of mother, father and sister but with an erratic psychopath of an aunt in Goma.

- For starters, the Baganda are a tribe like most that are given to totems and have great attachment to them. Like the family of Yeboah, the totem of the leopard is greatly respected. When Adu is faced with a nightmare of the animal that the clan believes in, there is reason to be afraid. In this regard, the totem wants to create harm. The gesture is so ominous that it causes tension in the family, most especially Nimo, who is more familiar with the repercussions of such a dream.
- The history of Nimo as an immigrant in Susa is all too familiar with many people around us. With opportunities on the decline in the countryside and some regions, there has been an influx of Karamojong youth on the streets of Kampala. These are trying to better their chances of survival by begging from well-wishers. Elsewhere, in many towns across the country, many people have settled in many towns in an attempt to establish business ventures in the retail and wholesale trade. This also resonates with Nimo settling in Susa due to limited opportunities in place of birth,
- Petty conflicts within neighbors like Appiah and Nimo's altercation over the manner of punishment for Adu's mischief is all too familiar in every community in Uganda.
- Nimo's gift of using herbs to treat people in his vicinity is something that we can relate with. There is an avalanche of herbalists advertising on radio and television on the ability to cure many ailments with their concoctions. Popular among those include Kazire herbal drinks that are packaged and sold across the country. Among the Iteso is a clan called the *Inomu* these are famed as born-setters since time immemorial. They have the gift of fixing anyone with

a dislocation through the application of herbal massages. This is also evident with selected women doted around us who perform such services for those with bone-related problems.

- Yaro's evangelism of preaching the gospel across the villages is a vivid reminder of our street preachers in all corners of Kampala and in many urban centers across Uganda. There has been an increase in the practice of taking God's message to the people rather than waiting on them to come to church. When we see Adu tag along with Yaro to spread the gospel among the villagers in Susa, we therefore don't find it strange as scholars.
- The demise of Nimo's family by the hand of fate is also a matter that one can relate with for one reason or another. We have seen families wiped away in greasily motor-accidents with whispers of fate being at play in their deaths. Also since the advent of HIV and Aids, some families have suffered the scourge more than others in the loss of nearly all their family members, with graveyards dotting at their compounds.
- Goma's treatment of Adu is akin to the often told and published stories of evil step-mothers and their treatment of the children under their care. So rampant is the vice that police are always apprehending the culprits from the weekly pressers and annual crime reports that police present before the country.
- The presence of people of good will is always something that every society needs to uphold towards the needy. The help that teacher Ofori and Beckie Annan is easily relatable with Mr Gashumba's much published rescue of a girl called Nabukeera who had been burnt by her guardian. He was able to take her and educated the poor girl to the level of completing her education and now settled abroad. It is such people that we easily relate with the Oforis and many others who continue to help the needy around their respective communities.
- Displaced and missing children around us is a story that is also not farfetched. Ama's illegal adoption and separation from her true relatives is absurd and yet the vice continues unabated in this continuous stories of abductions and forced adoptions in the evil world that we live in.
- The use of education as a liberating tool for an individual, is one that is way too obvious in all communities in Uganda. It is and has been proven that one is able to live a life of opportunities as long as one has attained a qualification like Adu and Ama. There are many families whose fortunes have been changed through the education of their children.

(Mark as a whole and expect detailed response. 20 Marks)

Growing Up with Poetry: David Rubadiri

Either

23. Africa.

(a). Who is the speaker in the poem? (2 Marks)

- An immigrant who is abroad/An African slave/ A son of Africa/ A negro

(b). What is the poem about? (5 Marks)

The speaker describes with disappointment the *realization of the true picture of Africa* that he finds unpleasant by all means. It is one that is *breaking down with pain, exploitation and oppression*. Yet it is the land that his *grandmother praises as a land of brave and strong men*, the same blood that flows in his veins. Despite all this, there is *hope that freedom will be achieved through the collective efforts of Africa's own children, to liberate their motherland*.

(c). What are the feelings of the speaker towards the message? (4 Marks)

- He is *disappointed* by the predicament of Africa yet it has potential.
- He is also very *angry* at the exploitation that is going on under her watch.
- He is *disgusted* by the wounds and pain that Africa is going through.
- He is also *hopeful* that something can be achieved with the effort of the young.
- He is *contemptuous* towards the oppressors
(Any 4 well-explained adjectives)

(d). Describe the character of the speaker? (4 Marks)

- He is *patriotic* shown by the love shown towards his motherland.
- The speaker is *Frank/honest/outspoken/candid* about Africa.
- He is *loving and caring*.
- The speaker is also *hopeful/optimistic* about Africa's recovery.
- The speaker is *observant* on what is happening in the continent of Africa.
(Any 4 well-explained traits)

(e). What can Africa do to solve her problems? (5 Marks)

- Elect good leaders who will work for the good of the people.
- Eliminate corruption so that there is optimum utilization of resources.
- Unite and fight as one in order to have a stronger voice.
- Advocate for better trading terms with the West like China and India have done.

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- Invest in modern technology so that it can earn more from her resources.
- Exercise tolerance and reduce internal divisions that are used by the West to exploit the continent like is happening in the Congo.
- Embrace family planning in order to reduce the dependence burden and the exploding population in the continent.
- Embrace education across the continent as a way of mental liberation.
- Use the comparative advantage of fertile soils to become food sufficient.
- etc

(Any 5 well-explained ideas that are feasible)

OR

24. Poems on separation include:

- Letter from a contract worker. Antonio Jacinto
- Refugee Blues. W. H Auden
- Epilogue. Grace Nichols
- The Train. Iteso
- Life is tremulous. Albert Malikongwa
- Footpath. Stella Ngatho
- Thoughts after work. David Rubadiri
- The renegade. David Diop
- Yet another song. David Rubadiri

The Anthology of East African Poetry. A.D Amateshe

Either

25. Beloved

(a) Who is the speaker and who does he address? (3 Marks)

The speaker is a grateful lover/satisfied husband/lover addressing a wife/fiancé/girlfriend.

(b) What is this poem about? (5 Marks)

The poem is about a *grateful husband* who expresses *his undying love* and commitment towards his wife/lover. The two have gone through lots of *challenges and obstacles* but have always come out *victorious and strong* because of *the love that they have for each other*. He assures her that as long as they are together no amount of obstacle can be difficult to overpower. He is *determined to love and cherish her always*.

(c) Explain the feelings of the speaker in the poem. (4 Marks)

- He is passionate about his love for the fiancé
- Grateful
- Pleased
- Excited/happy/over-joyed
- Fulfilled

(d) What makes this poem interesting to read? (5 Marks)

- it has an amazing and straightforward title "beloved"
- the message of love and how the speaker is fulfilled and happy with his loved one is quite refreshing.
- The character of honesty of the speaker is amazing to read.
- It is written in simple common-place language that is easy to understand.
- It is also quite short and thus easy to memorize.
- The lines are short and easy to recite.

(e) How relevant is this poem to you? (3 Marks)

- It exposes the determination that people show towards those they love especially when they are exchanging vows in church.
- Men shoulder lots of responsibility in the success of a family.
- The power of love is unquestionable within people around us.
- Lovers go through many problems in life that strengthens them.
- Etc

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OR

26. Poems by *Felix Mnthali* include:

- He passes by me. (84)
- Silence in the boardroom. (85)
- Farewell to Volkswagen. (86)
- Groaning for burial. (108)

Selected poems examined by Felix Mnthali

He passes by me

- The poem expresses the disappointment of an adult by the dress code of an adolescent. The teenager is poorly dressed and yet there seems to be no way out this malaise. It is a new imitation that the youth have taken up from the things that West lifestyles or media put across. The speaker wonders why the West has nothing that it copies from Africa.
- Feelings of the reader are all negative: consider adjectives like: Anger/bitterness, scorn, contempt, dismay, disgust etc towards the indecent manner of dressing.
- Relevance: use of weird hairstyles, mini-skirts, tattoos etc

Silence in the boardroom.

- Here the speaker is disappointed by the process of going to work and attending a meeting chaired by his boss. Expecting to receive clarification or important communication about the company but nothing is put forward, instead there is anger that the day's gathering has yielded nothing because the boss is a poor communicator.
- Feelings. also negative: anger, disgust, dismay etc
- Relevance: Wasteful meetings that are always called.

SECTION B

The Heart Soothers: Sylvester Onzivua

13. Why is Iyaa disappointed with Jimmy in the play, *The Heart Soothers*?

Approach: The student must show thorough knowledge that Iyaa is the voice of the playwright in more ways as she represents the core of tradition; the subtle forces that Jimmy attempts to alienate, only to awake to his own disappointment.

Iyaa is the illiterate mother of Jimmy and Recho the sole hand that has been responsible for raising and providing for Jimmy to the level that he has reached. She is a widow who loses her husband in circumstances that are not disclosed in the play. Her only hopes of a better life are crashed by Jimmy's failure to live up to her expectations in many ways than one.

- Most disturbing to Iyaa is the choice of a partner in Mini. As soon as Jimmy arrives in the village tow-in-hand with his educated girlfriend, Mini, hell breaks loose. Iyaa has an innate stereotype about town girls and for good reason her views are worthy listening to. She takes urban raised girls as lazy and unable to adapt to the life in the village. This hypothesis is easily thrown at the reader based on Mini's conduct at her home; timid, indecisive and somewhat slow in the performance of chores.
- Jimmy encourages laziness in his girlfriend by escorting her to the woods to collect firewood. Iyaa feels that such a conduct will awaken the frowns of the village, since such a habit is unknown in that area. A woman of Mini's caliber is supposed to do chores without supervision or assistance, like Jimmy is trying to do. Small as a matter as it is, Iyaa is incensed by this gesture that may have been unintentional in the eyes of her son.
- Iyaa is also obsessed with the catechist's daughter and she finds her a proper match for her son Jimmy. She goes to pains to enumerate the qualities that make her the right pick, much to Jimmy's chagrin. The girl of her choice has a proven track record of industry and family lineage that she finds as main qualities in a future daughter-in-law. Jimmy takes Iyaa's plea as meaningless on his part.
- Iyaa's desire for the right girl is based on the premise that she will have a person to unburden the chores and work in the home, owing to her weakening body due to old age. Instead Jimmy seeks a companion to love and cherish with qualities that he approves and not those that his mother desires. The objectives of mother and son are clearly at variance at this point and are beyond reconciliation.

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- It is worth noting that when Iyaa rants at the compound which has not been attended to, she is throwing a jibe at Mini's lack of initiative in ensuring that the home is kept in the right mode. A girl of the right orientation must have the eye to detail that she finds deficient in Mini right from the start. Mini therefore scores poorly for lack of initiative in the eyes of Iyaa.
- The destruction of Iyaa's much cherished pot by Mini makes a bad situation worse. She is unable to come to terms with the destruction of what has been a heritage to her. A pot passed on to her by her own mother and one that desired to pass on as well to one of her children. To Jimmy, the pot is just a piece of clay that can be replaced with a new one from the market, how naïve he is!
- Jimmy is also alienated all the more from his mother by his town engagements. He fails to make routine visits like any son should or even send the much desired assistance routinely. He seems to take a back seat and he is only awakened by a telegram that reports of Iyaa's illness when the damage done is irreparable.
- Most disappointing to the reader is Jimmy's open defiance and confrontation of his mother when she enumerates the qualities of the Catechist's daughter. He is clearly out of line and one who shows disrespect and scorn at his mother. There are many polite ways of expressing disapproval than what Jimmy does. This is perhaps the worst crime that Jimmy commits in the eyes of the moralists who value the respect of parents above anything in the world.
It this behavior and more that the reader will find more polarizing and disappointing for Jimmy in her face of his mother Iyaa.

(Expect a well-illustrated response 20 Marks)

14. Describe the relationship between Mini and Jimmy as brought out in the play.

Approach: This question requires that a candidate is aware of the adjectives that are used to describe what kind of relationship exists between the two love-birds.

Such words as: strained, cold, violent, love, conditional, exploitative, suspicious, mistrust, competitive should be reflected in the essay of the student.

- Mini and Jimmy are a stay-in couple whose relationship hasn't yet been 'officialized' they can be called co-habiting in the language that can be easily understood.
- Their relationship is filled with lots of ups and downs from the very beginning when the two visit the village for the purpose of approval by Iyaa. The relationship begins with *tension*. Iyaa is not impressed by Mini's conduct and Jimmy has to be on the defensive to rescue the situation.
- The destruction of Iyaa's pot makes the experience all the more strenuous. The relationship becomes *critical* Iyaa becomes very bitter with Mini for destroying the pot. On Jimmy's side, he feels the pot can be replaced just like any other.
- On Jimmy's return to the city, their affair becomes so *cold* when Jimmy becomes a late-comer at home, spending more time with Patrick than he does with Mini. It is something that is causing problems between the two love-birds.
- The discovery of Jez's letter in Jimmy's pocket by Mini triggers *suspicion* as Mini feels that she is being cheated on by her man, Jimmy. Mini only gets her mood calmed when Jimmy makes a lie about the letter.
- The outbursts between Jimmy and Mini on Jimmy's late returns and absence from home turns the home into a *violent and tense*. Jimmy fights Mini, and things get out of hand.
- Jimmy and Mini's in affair turns *competitive*. When the two begin to seek alternatives outside: Mini ends up with Jogo and Jimmy goes with Jez.
- The continued bickering in the family makes the once sweet affair a *strained* one. Jimmy finds reason to stop banking money in their joint-savings account and this has Mini complaining about where Jimmy is putting the money that he makes.

(Expect a well-illustrated response. 20 Marks)

Shadows of Time: Victor Byabamazima

15. Explain the character of Flora as brought out in the novel, *Shadows of Time*.

Approach: this is a straightforward question that requires the traits of Flora. These are based on what she does as an individual, what is said about her and her relationships with different characters in the story.

Guard against monotony and narration as a student is easily taken up by such a simple question.

Flora is a young girl who is living with her elder sister Jane in the city. She is a candidate in senior four and about to seat her final examinations. The story rotates around a series of mistakes that she makes and how they haunt and destroy her life.

- At the beginning of the text Flora exhibits naivety of the highest order by accepting a lift by a stranger and ends up losing her virginity in the process. She is easily taken up by the dream of living a better life and out-competing her school peers that she easily gives in to the demands of Kit, who has promised to buy her anything that her heart desires.
- She is also so immoral that she easily seduces Mike, her sister's boyfriend by taking advantage of her absence from home. Rather than have remorse for her act, she is instead triumphant and proud that she has been able to "equal" her sister in matters of sex.
- Flora is an irritating social climber who doesn't know her place and yet she pretends to be who she is not. This is evident at the party in the university with the guests and professors that she flukes to be in the company of. She refuses to accept her age and status as way below that of her guests. This goes a long way in making her all the more somewhat a foolish girl.
- She is obstinate and doesn't seem to learn from her mistakes. This is made worse by her irrationality in demanding for a job against her lack of qualifications. This makes her easy prey for people like Lupoi who take advantage of this desperation to exploit her.
- Flora is extravagant and desires to live a life that is not made for her. She buys expensive items just to look better than her peers and gain acceptance amongst them. Little does she know that her actions don't please anyone but herself.
- She is extremely deceptive and emotional throughout her life. Even after getting married to Steve, she continues to meet with Kit, the consequences

see her being raped and Steve killed in the end. Flora finds it difficult to detach herself from the criminal life of Kit and Tom.

- She is without a doubt a loving mother to her son and husband in the latter stages of the novel. Flora exhibits responsibility and motherly instincts.

(Expect a well-illustrated answer 20 Marks)

16. Discuss the theme of evil in the novel, *Shadows of Time*.

Approach: this is a rather straightforward question that simply requires a student's awareness of evil as a negative and life-denying force that pervades the novel. The examples and respective effects to the victims and the reader.

The story of Flora is a horrific tale of a young girl's journey of life and self-discovery in a parasitic society of men. It is also a story that attempts to capture the dark days of Uganda's political history. The anarchy that swept across during the shaky leadership of the Iddi Amin era often referred to as the "illiterate regime. Evil is an unacceptable behavior that goes against morality and society's expectations.

- Flora's naivety and how she is easily hoodwinked by Kit in a car, bar and lodge presents the reader with the first dish of evil. To say that Kit hasn't any remorse towards a school going girl, who is even clad in her uniform is more than pathetic. It is a reminder of how evil is inherent and nearly difficult to treat.
- By seducing Mike in the absence of her sister Jane, Flora is as evil as anything known under the sun. she lacks the shame or guilt of having sex with her sister's boyfriend. To the shock of the reader, Flora enjoys her game and looks at herself like an equal to her guardian. This is beyond contemptible in the eyes of moralists.
- The lies and hypocrisy of men like Lupoi is another of those disgusting portrayals of evil. Such a man of dignity doesn't feel any shame in taking a young girl like Flora into hotel to exploit her in the guise of giving her a non-existent job in his company. It is also clear that all beautiful girls in his office have gone through the same experience.
- The use of Flora as a bait for the Mzungu is yet another of those evil scenes that one encounters in the story. She is used like a prostitute by Tom and Kit, as well as being raped on her way to the Mzungu's place. As long as Kit

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and Tom are interested in the bigger picture of stealing the cars of their victims, Flora will always be their decoy.

- The regime at the latter stages of the story has innocent travelers stopped and raped according to the reports that are presented in the circles of Steve and his lecturer friends.
- The murders of the university lecturers and those associated with the attempted coup is such an act of evil that is despicable. The victims of this evil include Mr. Kungu, Macai and Mr Ruhu.
- The raping of Flora and having pictures of her nudity taken by Kit is a vivid example of an evil so entrenched in the community that seems difficult to eliminate.
- Jennifer, Flora's friend is haunted by the evil that she goes through that she chooses to end her life as a way of escaping the trauma. The loss of such a promising daughter leaves the lives of the parents shattered.

(Expect a well-illustrated answer 20 Marks)

