

208/1

Literature in English

Paper 1

Nov/Dec 2023

2 Hours



**ARCHDIOCESE OF MBARARA**  
**S.4 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2024**

208/1

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**TIME 2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO TEST TAKERS**

*There are **four** sections; Novels, Plays, Poetry and Prose*

*Answer **four** questions in all, choosing one from each section.*

**Turn Over**

## SECTION A: NOVELS

Choose one of the extracts below, read and answer the questions according to the scenarios of each as concisely as possible.

### EITHER

#### 1. John Steinbeck: The Pearl

In Kino's ears the song of the family was as fierce as a cry. He was immune and terrible, and his song had become a battle cry. They had trudged past the burned square where their house had been without even looking at it. They cleared the bush that edged the beach and picked their way down the shore toward the water. And they did not look toward Kino's broken canoe.

And when they came to the water's edge they stopped and stared out over the Gulf.

And then Kino laid the rifle down, and he dug among his clothes, and then he held the great pearl in his hand. He looked into its surface and it was gray and ulcerous. Evil faces peered from it into his eyes, and he saw the light of burning. And in the surface of the pearl he saw the frantic eyes of the man in the pool. And in the surface of the pearl he saw Coyotito lying in the little cave with the top of his head shot away. And the pearl was ugly. It was gray, like a malignant growth;

And Kino heard the music of the pearl, distorted, and insane. Kino's hand shook a little, and he returned slowly to Juana and held the pearl out to her. She stood beside him, still holding her dead bundle over her shoulder. She looked at the pearl in his hand for moments and then she looked into Kino's eyes and said softly: "No, you."

And Kino drew back his arm and flung the Pearl with all his might. Kino and Juana watched it go, winking and glimmering under the setting sun. They saw the little splash in the distance and they stood side by side watching the place for a long time.

### Questions

Referring to the bible verses; Ecclesiastes 1:2-8, "It is useless, useless, said the Philosopher. Life is useless, all useless. You spend your life working, labouring, and what do you have to show for it? Generations come and generations go, but the world stays just the same - - -"

(i) What is useless in the above extract and why? (06marks)

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(ii) Imagining that you lived in Kino's village and had the chance to witness what happens to him before and in the extract above, and you also had chance to sit and give advice to your friends regarding what you witnessed, explain the life's lessons you would teach them. (06 marks)

(iii) Choose any **one** of the other novels you have read on your course (syllabus) apart from The Pearl, and select one character that you feel is most significant important in that novel and describe his character (08 marks)

**OR**

## **2. LAWRENCE DARMANT: Grief Child**

He saw his mother gazing at him in bewilderment - She held Yaa tightly to herself as if to prevent her from going through the same experience. Yaa, also confused, looked on. "What is the matter?" his father asked again. He sat him down on the bed, looked straight at him, and asked, "What did you see? Adu looked around before he spoke. I saw a leopard... She was running after me... She was going to kill me — "Adu told the story in a broken voice but in great detail. His Father Nimo rose up and left the room.

It was day break. The darkness that had wrapped Susa around was gone. The sun had replaced the dying moon and was bright over the great mountain. Fire flies no longer roamed the sky; birds now sang in the trees. Adu was confused. One moment everybody and everything was against him. Now he was surrounded by his family, loving and caring. "It was only a dream, Adu, his mother said, trying to encourage him. You are alright." but the look on her face said something different, she was scared.

Nimo went into his room, sat down, and thought for a long time. He didn't like the mention of a Leopard in Adu's dream. The Leopard was his family totem; - a family's totem shouldn't be seeking a family member to kill. Why would a member of his own family be seeking to destroy his son? That was his interpretation of his dream. He was not the kind of man to make a fuss about a dream but he often remembered what his father told him long ago. When you dream and see an animal chasing you, don't take that dream lightly. And if that animal is a Leopard; his father had added, then you should seek for some help. It meant that something terrible was about to happen. Nimo worked as a farmer but he was a herbalist as many years before, when his knowledge of herbs was being taught to him by his father, he strongly objected to the part that

**Turn Over**



dabbled in spiritism. He was still a young boy then and unable to say yet why he rejected the dealings of the spirit world but he told his father that he didn't think he had the emotional strength to cope with the mysterious practices of juju men and soothsayers. In vain his father put pressure on him to learn how to consult the dead. Eventually his father had given up calling him a coward. The other person who had called him a coward was his only sister, Goma, who now lived in Bauma, a town west of Susa

#### Questions

- (a). Many a people dream in their sleep, and some of their dreams change those people's lives for good. Briefly explain whether you agree or disagree with this assertion in relation to the Story of Grief child. (05mrks)
- (b). If you were Adu in this situation in the extract, explain how you would feel.(05marks)
- (c) Choose one of the novels you have read on your course (syllabus) apart from Grief Child select the most significant/important character in that novel and describe what his/ her character is (10 marks)

#### SECTION B: PLAYS

**Choose one of the Extracts, read it carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

**Either**

#### **3. FRANCIS IMBUGA: The Return of Mgofu**

**Mdanya :** (Astonished) off it went? Where?

**Mhando:** (laughs) How was I to know? It just vanished into thin air. That's when I woke up to discover that I had been dreaming.

**Mdanya:** (Relieved) it's a good thing it was only a dream.

**Mtange:** Only a dream? No, Suja Mdanya. When those who have gone before us return to speak to us they do not use the tongues we know. The dream is clearly the voice of one who has already left us. We are lucky that such spirits still have time for us. With the ears of wisdom, let's listen.

**Mhando:** (With finality) Wise words indeed. The one I paid dowry for said as much.

**Mtange:** Oh! We Swallowed saliva and forgot. How is she?

**Mhando:** Mama Eons is a strong Woman. She's in great pain, still fighting.

**Mdanya:** The One above will take good care of her

**Mtange:** May it be so, Your Majesty.

**Mhando:** After I went back to sleep, the same dream recurred.

**Mtange:** The Same — Same dream? It's a pity there is no seer to unravel the meaning of the dream.

**Mhando:** The following morning, I called two of our most trusted scouts and sent them to Nderema (*Mtange and Mdanya exchange glances*) Yes, they came back yesterday; with news that indeed Mgofu Ngoda's son is alive in Nderema. He's old but alive. That is why I sent for you this morning.

**Mdanya:** (Confused) you sent for us to tell us that one of Mgofu Ngoda's descendants is alive?

**Mhando:** That's what I've just said. The people of Nderema are enjoying the fruits of our own folly. They have been milking the wisdom of our own Kinsman because of our own foolishness. They say, the man is very like those who have gone before him. With closed eyes, he sees the inside of things.

**Mtange:** (After a pregnant pause) Mwami Mhando, I see where your thoughts are headed... To plan to kidnap the seer from Nderema.

**Mhando:** No. Not on my life. Good neighbourliness forbids that. Besides, no violence shall be witnessed in Mndika while I'm still your leader. (Pause) We need lasting peace. To achieve lasting peace, (raises his voice) our people will need a strong reminder of where the rain began to beat us. Our people need to be made to touch the scars of bad governance. That is why I want us to invite Mgofu Ngoda's son to return home. He belongs here. He should come back to his motherland. I want him to return to Mndika to live with us.

#### Questions:

- (a) Good governance involves good leadership; with this view in mind, how is Mhando considered a good leader in this extract? (4 marks)
- (b) if you were Mhando, explain how you would convince Mgofu Ngoda to return to Mindika (3 marks)
- (c) Imagine you are one of the people who had been forcefully relocated to another town or country because of misunderstandings with in your community, how would you react towards the people asking you to return? (5 marks)

(d). Referring to any other plays you are currently reading. Identify three major themes and relate them with what is happening in your community. (8 marks)

OR

**4. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: Merchant of Venice.**

SHYLOCK: Signor Antonio, many a time and off in the Rialto.

You have rated me about my moneys and my  
Usances. Still have I borne it with a patient shrug?

For Sufferance is the badge of all our tribe.

You call me misbeliever, cut-throat dog,

And spit upon my Jewish gabardine,

And all for use of that which is mine own.

Well then, it now appears you need my help.

Go to them. You come to me and you say,

'Shylock, we would have moneys, you say so,

You, that did void your rheum upon my beard

And foot me as you spurn a stranger cur

Over your threshold, moneys is your suit

What should I say to you? Should I not say,

'Hath a dog money? Is it possible.

A cur can lend three thousand ducats?' Or

Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key,

With bated breath and whispering humbleness,

Say this:

Fair sir you spat on me on Wednesday last,

You Spurned me such a days, another time

You called me dog, and for these courtesies

ANTONIO: I'll lend you this much moneys??

I am as like to call thee so again,

To spit on thee again, to spurn thee too.

If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not

As to thy friends for when did friendship take

A breed of barren metal of his friend?

But lend it rather to thine enemy,

Who if he break thou mayst with better face

Exact the penalty.

SHYLOCK: Why look you, how you storm!

I would be friends with you and have your love,

Forget the shames that you have stained me with,

Supply your present wants and take no doit

of usance for my moneys, and you'll not

hear me,

This is Kind I offer.

BASSANIO: This were kindness

SHYLOCK: This Kindness will I Show.

Go with me to a notary, seal me there

Your single bond, and, in a merry sport,

If you repay me not on such a day,

In such a place, Such Sum or Sums as are

Expressed in the condition, let the forfeit

Be nominated for an equal pound

of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken

In what part of your body pleaseth me.

ANTONIO: Content, in faith. I'll seal to such a bond

And say there is much Kindness in the Jew

BASSANIO: You shall not seal to such a bond for me,

I'll rather dwell in my necessity.

ANTONIO: Why fear not, man I will not forfeit it.

Within these two months - that a month before

This bond expires - I do expect return of

thrice three times the value of this bond.

SHYLOCK: O father Abram, what these Christians are

Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect

The thoughts of others! Pray you tell me this.

If he should break this day, what should I gain



By the exaction of the forfeiture?  
A pound of man's flesh taken from a man  
is not so estimable, profitable neither,  
As flesh of muttuns, beefs, or goats. I say  
To buy his favour I extend this friendship.  
If he will take it, so; if not, adieu.  
And for my love I pray you wrong me not.

ANTONIO: Shylock, Yes I will send unto this bond.

Questions:

- a). Imagine you were Antonio, would you agree to Shylock's terms for the loan? (6marks)
- b). "A friend in need is a friend indeed" how true is this saying/proverb related to the character of Antonio.(4marks)
- c.) Many people these days have lost their property to money lenders because of failure to fulfill their obligation of paying back what they borrowed. As a Student of Literature who has read, the 'Merchant of Venice', what advice would you give to such people in your community? (4marks)
- d). "Literature in English is morality", Referring closely to this statement, explain the lessons you have drawn from any other play of your choice.(6marks)

### SECTION C: POETRY

Select one of the poems and answer the questions about it.

#### DAVID RUBADIRI: GROWING UP WITH POETRY

EITHER:

#### 5. REMEMBER: Naomi Mathali (Malawi)

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow it.

I remember

I remember, Countrymen,  
The days of Dawn Over the Land'.  
Of hopes and expectations  
When I truly understood  
Slavery was a thing of the past  
We, the people of the land,



Had been freed.  
 I was there when slowly  
 Darkness set in.  
 The gradual destruction  
 Was there in front of me,  
 But I did not see it.  
 I continued, Countrymen, to live in the past.  
 And when I finally looked  
 It was too late, and even I  
 Had become a Scavenger.

Naomi Mnthali (Malawi)

- (a) . The speaker talks about, "the days of Dawn over the land". In your view, what do you think this means? (4 marks)
- (b). Describe how the speaker felt before attaining freedom in comparison to after attaining that freedom. (4 marks)
- (c) What does this poem describe? (Explain it in your own words) (4 marks)
- (d) . What evidence is there to show that this is an African poem?(3 marks)
- (e) . What message do we draw from the poem? (5 marks)

#### AD AMATESHE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF EAST AFRICAN POETRY.

OR

#### 6. Illegal Brew: Dr. Noah K. Ndosi

He was a man  
 of favoured health,  
 whose speech was clarity  
 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 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 heedless neighbour  
who perished the same way.

## QUESTIONS

- (a) What problem in your society is being highlighted in this poem? (1 mark)
- b. Make a brief description of how this problem develops and the major challenges associated with it. (Base your answer on the poem above). (05 marks)

Phrases

(c) what impression do these words/phrases make to you?

(i) his head entered a pot — (1 mark)

(ii) — floods of warnings — (1 mark)

(iii) ..he sees the leveler coming to add him to the list 1 mark

(iv) - illegal brew — (1 mark)

(04 marks)

- d. Imagine your best friend has slowly but steadily fallen victim of the illegal brew, explain the advice you would give him to help him/her overcome the challenge (10 marks)

### SECTION D: Prose

7. Read the passage below taken from, 'Coming to Birth' by Marjorie Oludhe then answer the questions that follow.

They heard no more that night but next morning, sure enough, loudspeaker vans came to tell them that a dusk to dawn curfew was in force. One neighbour had had two fingers shot off and a quarter of a mile up the road there was another house of mourning. They had no idea how many others there were in Nyalenda and Kisumu town, for people who came and went on duty did not speak of these things or show any emotion. Inside the house, they began to discuss about the funeral.

Most of the neighbours knew, wordlessly, that the child was not Martin's and there would be no burial plot in Gem for him. She could go to her own home, but her father was dead and her elder brother, though often in Kisumu, was even more often away with one of the transport lorries. Who would pay the expense of the funeral? To hire a lorry, even if the money could be found, was to draw attention to oneself. To stay awake for the night was to break curfew. They talked and talked to her. It is only a child. It does not matter where a child is buried.

It is like a war, said the old man. 'We left our dead in Ethiopia and Burma. We had to. So no harm will come of it.'

A corner of a public plot was found and prayers hastily said. No one sat up for the wake. Curfew was in force. On Tuesday Paulina returned, stony-faced, to work. No one spoke of these things. The

women did not come to class in large numbers and even the market was visited only for essential supplies, not for sociable gatherings. Only an irrepressible youngster, living with his uncle in Kisumu town on schooldays, brought home the story of how one of his schoolmates had burst a milk-packet blown up with air at Kibuye market on the Sunday morning and the market had emptied to the sound.

Okeyo was dead. She sent Margaret back to her people, giving her the bus-fare, careless of what might happen to her on the way. She gave away Okeyo's clothes: she would not need them again. Perhaps his death was punishment for being born out of wedlock. She brooded over it alone. There was no good discussing it. All around her babies were being born out of wedlock and legitimate babies were dying. She continued to wear Martin's ring, remembering again and again that quiet ceremony at St. John's Church where he had confirmed their marriage and put it on her finger. And yet even that time she had lost the baby. Everything was topsy-turvy. At her father's funeral, she remembered, the oldest uncle had been concerned about the breaking of the roof-pole, to show that the house was now without a head. They had decided to leave it because they could not find any young boys who knew the role they should play in the ceremony. But now in the empty house there was so often, no lack of children, and the house of promise remained empty. Would it, after all, have been different if Martin had come for that funeral, to fulfill her rights? And yet, if Okeyo had been his son, would he not still have died?

#### Questions.

- a). Give the misfortunes that Paulina has experienced. (6 marks)
- b). What does the extract reveal about Paulina's character? (4 marks)
- c). Identify and explain any two (2) Stylistic devices used in the extract. (6 marks)
- d). What does this extract reveal about traditional beliefs and practices regarding burial?(4 marks)

END