

P310/1
LITERATURE
IN ENGLISH
(Prose and Poetry)
PAPER 1
July/August 2023
3 hours



WAKISSHA JOINT MOCK EXAMINATIONS

Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(Prose and Poetry)

Paper 1

3 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- *All sections are to be attempted.*
- *Candidates are advised to spend **70 minutes** (1hour and 10minutes) on section I and **55 minutes** on each of the section II and III.*
- *Read section I twice and then answer the questions. There is no need to read the whole paper first.*
- *Do the same for section II and then section III.*

SECTION 1

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions after it:

When many people for the first time hear the title of our new play, **I WANT TO SUE GOD!**, it sends them into a moment of bewilderment. They begin to ask a world of questions and wonder how much guts it took us to make such a bold statement.

The question on the mind is, Can a man ever sue God? And even if they could, what could the reason be? Who will mediate a case between man and God? If a man ever sued God, could they win? What happens to them if they lose?

While some are anxious to know how on earth a man will sue their **Maker** in heaven and in which court that will happen, others are quick to conclude that it is such a blasphemy for a man to dare to take on a **deity** in court. That brings us to the multi-million-dollar question, Is I want to sue God! **blasphemy** or just another satire?

In **I want To Sue God!**, a young man invests his entire savings into his wedding only to be utterly disappointed by the return on his investment-his wife. She is indeed everything but a wife. The ambitious young man goes on a mission to sue the deity who established the union.

This social drama was first staged in February and March 2016 at University of Ghana and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology respectively. Thereafter, it has been staged on different platforms with in the country and abroad. With a focus on how many people, especially the young ones, are misled into marriage because of the excitement about the pomp and **pageantry** that comes with weddings, the musical uses drama, spoken word and dance to tell its beautiful story.

Considering the theme of the play, one realizes that someone wanting to sue God for their unmet expectations is not far fetched at all. Day in and out, we all look out for someone to blame when our expectations are not fulfilled. Some even go to the extent of blaming their parents for giving birth to them without their consent. Whew!

Life can be hard and we must be intentional not to blame others when it fails. If we would have celebrated the success alone, we must learn to not apportion blame when failure comes.

Frankly, everyone has reached an **I want to Sue God! Moment** in their lives before. We have all experienced that moment when we blamed everyone for our **woes** except ourselves. We blamed our family and sometimes friends and even the government.

In finding fault with others, we forgot how we perfectly played a role in the circumstances we are currently drowning in. We were ready to blame everybody except assessing our own selves.

I Want To Sue God! Is a sober reflection of a people who will blame everybody before they consider blaming themselves. It is a mirror of a people who think no one is perfect except

themselves. When our business fails, we blame our staff and not how we misused funds. We assume fixing a country is someone's duty and not ours.

Identifying a problem is the first step to solving it. Unfortunately, oftentimes, we are the problem. Our problems are almost always never solved because we are always pointing fingers at everybody except our own selves. We end up solving some parts of the problem while the root of the problem grows deeper and deeper.

Who do you blame when life doesn't happen according to your plans? Do you blame people you were looking up to for help? When you are not able to achieve your set goals, who do you hold responsible for your failure? Those who take responsibility of their mistakes take responsibility of their lives.

If you find yourself **entangled** in any problem of sort, look for the solution within before you look without. Admit your mistakes and rectify them quickly. The solution to most of our problems is sitting right inside of us.

I Want To Sue God! Is a test of our character of responsibility. If we are intentional about our choices and decisions, we will all mold the future we want to have. Our future is only a product of our choices today. How our lives will turn out solely rests in our choices. The only person to blame when it messes up is our own selves.

Is your life what you want it to be? Are you fulfilled? Who do you blame when things don't go as you expected them to? God or devil? Have you taken the time to do a detailed assessment of your own self and how you have wittingly or unwittingly contributed to your current woes?

Sometimes, the only devil standing between us and our destiny is our own character. We may be our own demons. Our poor choices and decisions keep **hurling us behind** while all others are any fault therein.

(Source: Extract from *Modern Ghana* By Kobina Ansah)

Questions

- a) Suggest a suitable title to the passage. (02 marks)
- b) What does the writer mean by the following:
 - (i) When people first hear the title for our new play, I WANT TO SUE GOD!, it sends them into a moment of bewilderment. (03 marks)
 - (ii) Our problems are almost always never solved because we are always pointing fingers at everybody except our own selves. (03 marks)
- c) What according to the passage makes people reach a moment of I Want to Sue God? (06 marks)
- d)
 - (i) What argument does the writer make in the passage? (08 marks)
 - (ii) Explain how the play referred to in the passage is a satire. (06 marks)

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- e) What do the following words mean according to the passage.
- (i) blasphemy
 - (ii) deity
 - (iii) pageantry
 - (iv) woes
 - (v) hurling us behind
 - (vi) entangled

SECTION II

2. Read the passage below and answer the questions after it.

Girl

By Jamaica Kincaid

Wash the white clothes on Monday and put them on the stone heap; wash the color clothes on Tuesday and put them on the clothesline to dry; don't walk barehead in the hot sun; cook pumpkin fritters in very hot sweet oil; soak your little cloths right after you take them off; when buying cotton to make yourself a nice blouse, be sure that it doesn't have gum on it, because that way it won't hold up well after a wash; soak salt fish overnight before you cook it; is it true that you sing benna in Sunday school ?; always eat your food in such a way that it won't turn someone else's stomach; on Sunday try to walk like a lady and not like the slut you are so bent on becoming; don't sing benna in Sunday school; you mustn't speak to wharf-rat boys, not even to give directions; don't eat fruits on the street-flies will follow you; *but I don't sing benna on Sundays at all and never in Sunday school*; this is how to sew on a button; this is how to make a button-hole for the button hole for the button you have just sewed on; this is how to hem a dress when you see the hem coming down and so to prevent yourself from looking like the slut I know you are so bent on becoming; this is how you iron your father's khaki shirt so that it does have a crease; this is how you iron your father's khaki pants so that they don't have a crease; this is how you grow okra-far from the house, because okra tree harbors red ants; when you are growing dasheen; make sure it gets plenty of water or else it makes your throat itch when you are eating it; this is how you sweep a corner; this is how you sweep a whole house; this is how you sweep a yard; this is how you smile to someone you don't like too much; this is how you smile to someone you don't like at all; this is how you smile to someone you like completely; this is how you set a table for tea; this is how you set a table for dinner, this is how you set a table for dinner with an important guest; this is how you set a table for lunch; this is how you set a table for breakfast; this is how to behave in the presence of men who don't know you very well, and this way they won't recognize immediately the slut I have warned you against becoming; be sure to wash every day, even if it is with your own spit; don't squat down to play marbles- you are not a boy, you know; don't pick people's flowers-you might catch something; don't throw stones at blackbirds; because it might not be a blackbird at all; this is how to make a bread pudding; this is how to make doudou; this is how to make pepper pot; this is how to make a good medicine for a cold; this is how to make a good medicine to throw away a child before it even becomes a child; this is how to catch a fish; this is how to throw back a fish you don't like, and that way something bad won't fall on you; this is how to bully a man; this is how a man bullies you; this is how to love a man; and if this doesn't work there are other ways, and if they don't work don't feel too bad about giving up; this is how to spit up in the air if you feel like it, and this is how to move

quick so that it doesn't fall on you; this is how to make ends meet; always squeeze bread to make sure its fresh; *but what if the baker won't let me feel the bread?*; you mean to say that all you are really going to be the king of woman the baker won't let near the bread?

Glossary

Flitters:	Small fried cakes of batter, often containing vegetables, fruit, or other fillings
Gum:	plant residue on cotton
Sing benna:	sing popular music (not appropriate for Sunday school)
Okra:	a shrub whose pods are used in soups, stews, and gumbo
Dasheen:	the taro plant, cultivated, like the potato, for its edible tuber
Doukona:	plantain pudding; the plantain fruit is similar to the banana
Pepper pot:	a spicy West Indian stew

Questions

- a) How appropriate is the title to the passage? (02 marks)
- b) (i) What things should the girl take into consideration according to the passage and why? (06 marks)
- (ii) What do these tell you about the challenges of women in society? (03 marks)
- c) (i) Describe the tone of the mother in the passage. (06 marks)
- (ii) What is the intention of the writer in this passage? (04 marks)
- d) Examine the effectiveness of the narrative techniques the writer has used in this passage. (12 marks)

SECTION III

3. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

My Mother in Three Photographs

Her face looks out
Flawless
Her sexuality electric
In a mini dress and sheer satin stockings
The girl of the 1960's
Beautiful beyond belief.
She is looking through the camera
Like her space is here beyond
Enchanting and enchanted
By the times dreams of freedom were young
The fortunes of Uganda
Hot and sizzling

My mother in the 1970's
More somber but her skin
Still flawless
The abrasive years gentle on her youth.

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Her body wrapped in a long nylon dress
Stopping her ankles and
Full sleeves touching her wrists
Hooded sorrow in her posture
The flowing dress
Is not because
She is a widow (which is by government action)
But it is a government decree.
Her magnificence and elegance
Seems to support the given name of the dress
Amin nvaako.

My mother in the 1990's
Neat short hair
Luring in its intricate curls.
She wears a busuuti
A sign of the times
A return home, a finding of
Uncertain peace
A maturing of a woman and nation
An endorsement of a recognition of the troubles.
She has weathered
A sitting down to count her losses and blessing
And a hand over the future.

P.S.Amin Nvaako means Amin let me be or Amin leave me alone
(By Susan Nalugwa Kiguli)

Questions

- (a) What is the poem about? (07 marks)
- (b) Identify the drastic changes that have happened over time in the poem. (06 marks)
- (c) Describe the effectiveness of any five poetic devices used in the poem. (15 marks)
- (d) Comment on the attitude of the speaker in the poem. (05 marks)

END