P310/1

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

(Prose and Poetry)

Paper 1

**2023**

3 hours

**Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education**

**EXAMINATION**

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(Prose and Poetry)

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

*Attempt* **ALL** *questions*

*Read the passages more than once before you answer the questions.*

*Remember to write your answers in clear English language.*

# **SECTION I : ADVANCED COMPREHENSION**

**Read the passage below and answer the questions following it.**

It is a melancholy object to those, who walk through this great town, or travel in the country, when they see the streets, the roads and cabin-doors crowded with beggars of the female sex, followed by three, four, or six children, all in rags, and importuning every passenger for an **alms.** These mothers instead of being able to work for their honest livelihood, are forced to employ all their time in strolling to beg sustenance for their helpless infants who, as they grow up, either turn thieves for want of work, or leave their dear native country, to fight for the Pretender in Spain, or sell themselves to the Barbados.

I think it is agreed by all parties, that this **prodigious** number of children in the arms, or on the backs, or at the heels of their mothers, and frequently of their fathers, is in the present deplorable state of the kingdom, a very great additional grievance; and therefore whoever could find out a fair, cheap and easy method of making these children sound and useful members of the common-wealth, would deserve so well of the public, as to have his statue set up for a preserver of the nation.

But my intention is very far from being confined to provide only for the children of professed beggars: it is of a much greater extent, and shall take in the whole number of infants at a certain age, who are born of parents in effect as little able to support them, as those who demand our charity in the streets.

As to my own part, having turned my thoughts for many years, upon this important subject, and maturely weighed the several schemes of our projectors, I have always found them grossly mistaken in their computation. It is true, a child just dropped from its dam, may be supported by her milk, for a solar year, with little other nourishment: at most not above the value of two shillings, which the mother may certainly get, or the value in scraps, **by her lawful occupation of begging;** and it is exactly at one year old that I propose to provide for them in such a manner, as, instead of being a charge upon their parents, or the parish, or wanting food and raiment for the rest of their lives, they shall, on the contrary, contribute to the feeding, and partly to the clothing of many thousands.

There is likewise another great advantage in my scheme, that it will prevent those voluntary abortions, and that horrid practice of women murdering their bastard children, alas! too frequent among us, sacrificing the poor innocent babies, I doubt, more to avoid the expense than the shame, which would move tears and pity in the most savage and inhuman breast.

The number of souls in this kingdom being usually reckoned one million and a half, of these I calculate there may be about two hundred thousand couple whose wives are breeders; from which number I subtract thirty thousand couple, who are able to maintain their own children, (although I apprehend there cannot be so many, under the present distresses of the kingdom) but this being granted, there will remain an hundred and seventy thousand breeders. I again subtract fifty thousand, for those women who miscarry, or whose children die by accident or disease within the year. There only remain an hundred and twenty thousand children of poor parents annually born. The question therefore is, how this number shall be reared, and provided for? This, as I have already said, under the present situation of affairs, is utterly impossible by all the methods hitherto proposed. For we can neither employ them in handicraft or agriculture; they neither build houses, (I mean in the country) nor cultivate land: they can very seldom pick up a livelihood by stealing till they arrive at six years old; except where they are of outwardly parts, although I confess they learn the rudiments much earlier; during which time they can however be properly looked upon only as **probationers**: As I have been informed by a principal gentleman in the county of Cavan, who protested to me, that he never knew above one or two instances under the age of six, even in a part of the kingdom so renowned for the quickest proficiency in that art.

I am assured by our merchants, that a boy or a girl before twelve years old, is no saleable commodity, and even when they come to this age, they will not yield above three pounds, or three pounds and half a crown at most, on the exchange; which cannot turn to account either to the parents or kingdom, the charge of nutriments and rags having been at least four times that value.

I shall now therefore humbly propose my own thoughts, which I hope will not be liable to the least objection.

I have been assured by a very knowing American of my **acquaintance** in London, that a young healthy child well nursed, is, at a year old, a most delicious nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will serve in a fricassee.

I do therefore humbly offer it to public consideration, that of the hundred and twenty thousand children, already computed, twenty thousand may be reserved for breed, whereof only one fourth part to be males; which is more than we allow to sheep, black cattle, or swine, and my reason is, that these children are seldom the fruits of marriage, a circumstance not much regarded by our savages, therefore, one male will be sufficient to serve four females. That the remaining hundred thousand may, at a year old, be offered in sale to the persons of quality and fortune, through the kingdom, always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to **render them plump**, and fat for a good table. A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends, and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt, will be very good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter.

I have reckoned upon a medium that a child just born will weigh 12 pounds, and in a solar year, if **tolerably nursed**, increase to 28 pounds.

I grant this food will be somewhat dear and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children.

Infant's flesh will be in season throughout the year, but more plentiful in March, and a little before and after; for we are told by a grave author, an eminent French physician, that fish being a prolific and yet, there are more children born in Roman Catholic countries about nine months after Lent, the markets will be more glutted than usual, because the number of **Popish infants**, is at least three to one in this kingdom, and therefore it will have one other **collateral advantage**, by lessening the number of Papists among us.

I have already computed the charge of nursing a beggar's child (in which list I reckon all cottagers, labourers, and four-fifths of the farmers) to be about two shillings per annum, rags included; and I believe no gentleman would **repine** to give ten shillings for the carcass of a good fat child, which, as I have said, will make four dishes of excellent nutritive meat, when he hath only some particular friend, or his own family to dine with him. Thus the squire will learn to be a good landlord, and grow popular among his tenants, the mother will have eight shillings neat profit, and be fit for work till she produces another child.

Those who are thriftier (as I must confess the times require) may flea the carcass; the skin of which, artificially dressed, will make admirable gloves for ladies, and summer boots for fine gentlemen.

As to our City of Dublin, shambles may be appointed for this purpose, in the most convenient parts of it, and butchers we may be assured will not be wanting; although I rather recommend buying the children alive, and dressing them hot from the knife, as we do roasting pigs.

***(By Jonathan Swift)***

**Questions:**

a) Suggest a suitable title for this passage. *(02 marks)*

b) What is the writer’s intention in the passage? *(08 marks)*

c) In your own words, explain the writer’s message in the passage.  *(08 marks)*

d) What is the writer’s attitude towards the situation described in the passage? *(06 marks)*

e) Give the contextual meanings of the following words or expressions. *(10 marks)*

(i) Alms

(ii) Prodigious

(iii) Lawful occupation of begging

(iv) Probationers

(v) Acquaintance

(vi) Render them plump

(vii) Tolerably nursed

(viii) Popish

(ix) Collateral advantage

(x) Repine

**SECTION II : STYLE**

***Read the passage below and answer the questions following it.***

I’m not a politician, not even a student of politics; in fact, I’m not a student of much of anything. I’m not a democrat. I’m not a republican, and I don’t even consider myself an American. If you and I were Americans, there’d be no problem. Those Honkies that just got off the boat, they’re already Americans; immigrant Poles are already Americans; the Italian refugees are already Americans. Everything that comes out of Europe, every blue-eyed thing, is already an American. And as long as you and I have been over here, we aren’t Americans yet.

Well, I am one who doesn’t believe in deluding myself. I’m not going to sit on your table and watch you eat, with nothing on my plate, and call myself a diner. Sitting at the table doesn’t make you a diner, unless you eat some of what’s on the plate. Being here in America doesn’t make you an American. Being born in America doesn’t make an American. Why, if birth made you American, you wouldn’t need any legislation; you wouldn’t need any amendments to the constitution; you wouldn’t be faced with civil-rights filibustering in Washington, D.C., right now. They don’t have to pass civil-rights legislation to make an Italian an American.

No, I’m not an American. I’m one of the 22 million black people who are the victims of Americanism. One of the 22 million black people who are the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy. So, I’m not standing here speaking to you as an American, or a patriot, or a flag-saluter, or a flag-waver – no, not I. I’m speaking as a victim of this American system. And I see America through the eyes of the victim. I don’t see any American dream; I see an American nightmare.

These 22 million victims are waking up. Their eyes are coming open. They’re beginning to see what they used to only look at. They are becoming politically mature. They are realising that there are new political trends from coast to coast. As they see these new political trends, it’s possible for them to see that every time there’s an election the races are so close that they have a recount. They had to recount in Massachusetts to see who was going to be governor, it was so close. It was the same way in Rhode Island, in Minnesota, and in many other parts of the country. And the same with Kennedy and Nixon when they ran for president. It means that when white people are evenly divided, and black people have a block of votes of their own, it is left up to them to determine who’s going to sit in the White House and who’s going to be in the dog house.

It was the black man’s vote that put the present administration in Washington, D.C. Your vote, your dumb vote, your ignorant vote, your wasted vote put an administration in Washington, D.C., that has seen fit to pass every kind of legislation imaginable, saving you until last, then filibustering on top of that. And your and my leaders have the audacity to run around clapping their hands and talk about how much progress we’re making.

**Questions**

1. What impression has the writer created of the black community in his country?

*(6 marks)*

1. What arguments does the writer make in the passage? *(6 marks)*
2. Comment on the mood of the narrator in the passage. *(5 marks)*
3. How has the writer brought out his intended massage in the passage? *(12 marks)*
4. What feelings does the passage arouse in you? *(4 marks)*

**SECTION III : POETRY**

**DEATH IN THE DAWN**

Driving to Lagos one morning

A white cockerel flew out of the

Dusk and smashed itself against my windscreen.

A mile further, I

Came across a motor accident

And a freshly dead man in the

Smash.

Traveller, you must set out

At dawn. And wipe your feet upon

The dog – nose wetness of earth.

Let sunrise quench your lamps, and watch

Faint brush prickling in the sky light

Cottoned feet to break the early earthworm

On the hoe. Now shadows stretch with sap

Not twighlight’s death and sad prostration

This soft kindling soft receding breeds

Racing joys and apprehension for

A naked day, burdened hulks retract,

Stoop to the mist in faceless throng

To wake the silent markets – swift, mute

Processions on grew by ways…

On this

Counterpane, it was…

Sudden winter at the death

Of dawn’s lone trumpeter, cascades

Of white feather – flakes, but it proved

A futile rite. Proportion sped

Grimly on, before.

The right foot for joy, the left, dread

And the mother prayed, child

May you never walk

When the road waits, famished.

Traveller you must set forth

At dawn.

I promised marvels of the holy hour

Presages as the white cock’s flapped

Perverse impalement – as who would dare

The wrathful wings of man’s Progression…

But such another Wrath! Brother,

Silenced in the startled hug of;

Your invention – is this mocked grimace

This closed contortion – I?

***By Wole Soyinka***

**Questions**

1. Who is the persona in the poem? *(02 marks)*
2. Describe the themes developed in the poem? *(06 marks)*
3. What is the writer’s mood? *(04 marks)*
4. Comment on the writer’s use of Form and Structure. *(09 marks)*
5. How does the writer effectively use Figurative Language in the Poem? *(09 marks)*

What lesson do you draw from the poem?

**END**