

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Year I END OF SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATIONS 2015 /2016
LIT 2122 THE GROWTH OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

Date: 2nd May, 2016

Duration: 3 HOURS

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Instructions

- Attempt three questions but question One is compulsory
- Start each question on a new page
- Clearly number the questions you have answered
- All the answers should be written in the answer booklets
- Do not write on the question paper

1. Read the following Poem below and answer the Questions that follow:

Piano and Drums

When at break of day at a riverside
I hear jungle drums telegraphing
The mystic rhythm, urgent, raw
Like bleeding flesh, speaking of
primal youth and the beginning,
I see the panther ready to pounce,
The leopard snarling about to leap
And the hunters crouch with spears poised;

And my blood ripples, turns torrent,
Topples the years and at once I'm
In my mother's lap a suckling;
At once I'm walking simple

Paths with no innovations,
Rugged, fashioned with the naked
Warmth of hurrying feet and groping hearts
In green leaves and wild flowers pulsing,

Then I hear a wailing piano
Solo speaking of complex ways
In tear-furrowed concerto;
of far-away lands
and new horizons with
coaxing diminuendo, counterpoint,
crescendo. But lost in the labyrinth
of its complexities, it ends in the middle
of a phrase at a daggerpoint.

And I lost in the morning mist
of an age at a riverside keep
wandering in the mystic rhythm
of jungle drums and the concerto.

Gabriel Okara (Nigeria)

- a. What does the Piano and Drums represent ? 4 marks
- b. Explain the meaning of the following : ' ... jungle drums telegraphing.' 5 marks
- c. Identify the era of African historic events that the persona explores in Stanza 2.
and give reasons to support your answer. 5 marks
- d. What period do the events in Stanza 3 capture ? Why ? 5 marks

e How does the persona make effective use of his senses to explain various issues in the poem ? 6 marks

f. In what state is the persona in Stanza 3 ? Why ? 5 marks

g. In what ways does the subject matter in David Diop's *Africa* differ from the subject matter that Gabriel Okara handles in Okara's *Piano and Drums* . 10 marks

2.How is Achebe successful at defying the White world's assertion that : 'Africa has no history, no civilisation, no culture, no religion' in *Things Fall Apart* ? 30 marks

3.Using a text of your choice, explain clearly how colonialism was successful at gaining roots in Africa. 30 marks

4.Basing your argument on either Ousmane's *God's Bits of Wood*, Meja Mwangi's *Carcase for Hounds*, or Ngugi and Mugo's *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*, explain clearly the issues that were involved in putting up resistance to Colonialism. 30 marks

5.Using either a play or a novel you have read in this Course Unit that captures the Post-Independence era, explain clearly how a writer of such a text manages to explore the theme of futility of independence. 30 marks

6. In what ways does Julius Ocwinyo explore the theme of Fate in *Fate of The Banished* ?
What other political issues does he address in this same text ? 30 marks