

**ENG2603**

May/June 2014

**COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN LITERATURES**

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

EXAMINERS .  
FIRST  
SECONDMRS BC JANARI  
PROF J MURRAYDR S MAITHUFI  
PROF MJ WILLIAMS**Closed book examination.****This examination question paper remains the property of the University of South Africa and may not be removed from the examination venue****This paper consists of 3 pages.****ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A AND ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B.****SECTION A**

You must answer <b>ONE</b> question from this Section.
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**Question 1: Poetry: Michael Chapman's *The New Century of South African Poetry***

According to the speaker, the dominant sense of doom that he expresses in the image of entrapment in the poem is offset by in religious appeals. Discuss how he introduces and elaborates upon these appeals.

**Dennis Brutus**

'Letter to Martha, 4'

Particularly in a single cell,  
but even in the sections  
the religious sense asserts itself;

perhaps a childhood habit of nightly prayers  
the accessibility of Bibles,  
or awareness of the proximity of death;

and, of course, it is currency –

pietistic expressions can purchase favours  
and it is a way of suggesting reformation  
(which can procure promotion);

and the resort of the weak  
is to invoke divine revenge  
against a rampaging injustice;

but in the grey silence of the empty afternoons  
it is not uncommon  
to find oneself talking to God.

[Robben Island, 1966]

[50]

**Question 2** Alfred Khumalo's *Seven Steps to Heaven*

Discuss the role of ingrained stereotypes and the challenges to such stereotypes in the passage that echoes the childhood voice of Thulani Tembe below. As part of your answer you should also refer to other relevant examples from the novel

'Have you guys spoken English to a real Englishman? I am not talking about these poor white South Africans who despise us. I am talking real Englishmen from Britain. Anyway, my daddy and I went visiting over the weekend. A fellow Anglican, who's originally from England, invited us to his house for dinner. We went to the house in Durban North, sat at the same table as the white family. We laughed and cracked jokes. My father and the Englishman drank beer from the same beer mug. Us kids ate snacks from the same plate.'(p.32).

[50]

**SECTION B**

You must answer ONE question from this Section.

**Question 3:** Loraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

Read the statement below and answer the question that follows:

Although the theme of racial segregation is central to the plot of the play *A Raisin in the Sun*, the ways in which characters respond to the problems surrounding it are influenced by factors such as gender and class.

Do you agree? With detailed references to the play, comment on the validity of this statement.

[50]

**Question 4: Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions***

Identity is shaped by a number of different factors, including race, gender and class. When reading *Nervous Conditions*, it is not possible to understand the character of Tambu without considering how all these factors influence her identity.

Write an essay in which you respond to the statement above. You may agree or disagree with the statement, but you must refer closely to the novel to support your point of view.

**NB:** Your answers should be analytic rather than a re-telling of the novel's main points. Marks will be deducted from answers that merely provide a plot summary.

[50]

**Final Total Mark: 100**