ENG2603

COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN LITERATURES

Duration 2 Hours 100 Marks

EXAMINERS
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Closed book examination

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This examination question paper consists of 4 pages

The examination paper is composed of two sections Section A and Section B. Each section will contain two questions. You must answer ONE question from SECTION A and ONE question from SECTION B. You may NOT answer two questions from the same section. Please be clear on this matter ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION. EACH QUESTION AMOUNTS TO 50 MARKS

[TURN OVER]
SECTION A

You must answer ONE question from this section

Question 1: Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Read the statement below and answer the question that follows

"Although the dreams of the Younger family revolve and crystallize around the 10 000 dollars check, the irony is that its arrival seems to have deepened the conflicts and divisions among them (the family members)"

Write an essay in which you critically explore how Mama Younger attempts to resolve conflicts in her family

[50 Marks]

Question 2: Fred Khumalo, *Seven Steps to Heaven*

Using the following quotation as your starting point, write an essay in which you discuss the role of Nolutha in highlighting Sizwe’s complex sexual identity

"To Patrick, contact triggered a sexual response, it evoked cinematic flashes of other bodies he’d embraced, eyes he’d looked into, lips he’d marvelled at. When he caressed Sizwe’s face, the latter didn’t recoil. Soon they were kissing, and later moved into bed.

Much later, Sizwe lay on his back staring at the ceiling. He was waiting for the feeling of strangeness, of disgust, to engulf him. A century later, the feeling hadn’t even quivered on the horizon.

What did come to his mind was the time he and Thulani had had sex with Nolutha in the bush. Done with her, the two boys had walked home hand in hand. From his perspective, Sizwe had never felt closer to Thulani than that day. In fact he had felt so close to his friend it felt he was him. He squeezed his hand until Thulani faked a vicious cough, which gave him an excuse to release his hand from Sizwe’s firm grasp."

(Khumalo, F 2007 Auckland Park Jacana pp 152 – 3)

[50 Marks]

TOTAL SECTION A: 50
SECTION B

**Question 3: Tsitsi Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions**

*Nervous Conditions* focuses on Tambu's growing maturity and insights into the characters she encounters. Write an essay in which you discuss the development of her insights into Babamukuru's character, and the ways in which this knowledge re-shapes her relationship with him.

[50 Marks]


The hymn, "Ntsikana’s Bell", conceived to be performed in public spaces in front of an audience, was composed by Ntsikana kaGabella, a Xhosa convert to Christianity. By focusing on the text, write an essay in which you discuss the interface between African culture and Christianity, as well as the linguistic and formal patterns employed by the poet to call his people to action against the colonizers.

"Ntsikana’s Bell"

Ntsikana kaGabella

Sele! Sele! [call to worship]
Ahom, ahom, ahom!

Sele! Sele! Come, hear the Word of the Lord
Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom.
[bell sound by striking a rock]

Respond! Respond! You are called to heaven
Come, all you multitudes! Come, all you children!
Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom

It has been fenced in and surrounded, this land of your fathers
He who responds to the call will be blessed
Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom
Sele! Sele!
Ahom, ahom, ahom!
Respond! Respond! You are called to heaven
Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom

(tr. isiXhosa J.K. Bokwe)