ENG2603

COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL
AFRICAN LITERATURES

May/June 2016

Duration 2 Hours 100 Marks

EXAMINERS
FIRST DR R D’ABDON DR RA MUSVOTO
SECOND PROF S MAITHUFI PROF J MURRAY

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 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.
SECTION A

You must answer **ONE** question from this section

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

Read the excerpt below and answer the question that follows

**Walter:** Who the hell told you you had to be a doctor? If you so crazy 'bout messing 'round with sick people – then go be a nurse like other women – or just get married and be quiet

(Hansberry, L. 2014 *A Raisin in the Sun*, London & New York Bloomsbury p 22)

Write an essay in which you critically discuss how gender stereotypes impact on the dreams and aspirations of characters in the play. Refer to at least four characters

[50 Marks]

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

Write an essay in which you discuss the significance of Sis Joy’s choice of song “Wake up Everybody” by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes in relation to the multiple lives of Sizwe Dube

[50 Marks]

**TOTAL SECTION A: 50**
SECTION B

You must answer ONE question from this section

Question 3: Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*

“Although critics have lambasted Babamukuru in *Nervous Conditions* as a domineering patriarch, his vision is far more advanced as he is concerned with the welfare of the Sigauke family in a context where education provided one of the few avenues through which Africans could realise their dreams in a colonial context”

Write an essay in which you discuss to what extent you would agree with this assessment of Babamukuru’s role in *Nervous Conditions*

[50 Marks]


Read the statement below and answer the question that follows

The ironic humor and the lyrical conversational style employed by the poet/speaker display a close relationship with his immediate world, while commenting on issues of racial discrimination, poverty and suffering as a result of the apartheid system

In the light of this statement, analyze the poem “City Johannesburg” by Mongane Wally Serote and write an essay that demonstrates your own understanding of the poem. In your analysis, take note of the above-mentioned issues/themes (racial discrimination, poverty and suffering), and comment on language devices such as metaphor, symbolism and personification

*City Johannesburg*

Wally Mongane Serote

This way I salute you
My hand pulses to my back trousers pocket
Or into my inner jacket pocket
For my pass, my life,
Jo’burg City
My hand like a starved snake rears my pockets
For my thin, ever lean wallet,
While my stomach groans a friendly smile to hunger,
Jo’burg City
My stomach also devours coppers and papers
Don’t you know?
Jo’burg City, I salute you,
When I run out, or roar in a bus to you,
I leave behind me, my love,
My comic houses and people, my dongas and my ever
         whirling dust,
My death
That's so related to me as a wink to the eye
Jo'burg City
I travel on your black and white and roboted roads
Through your thick iron breath that you inhale
At six in the morning and exhale from five noon
Jo'burg City
That is the time when I come to you,
When your neon flowers flaunt from your electrical wind,
That is the time when I leave you,
When your neon flowers flaunt their way through the
         falling darkness
On your cement trees
And as I go back, to my love,
My dongas, my dust, my people, my death,
Where death lurks in the dark like a blade in the flesh,
I can feel your roots, anchoring your might, my feebleness
In my flesh, in my mind, in my blood,
And everything about you says it,
That, that is all you need from me
Jo'burg City, Johannesburg,
Listen when I tell you,
There is no fun, nothing, in it,
When you leave the women and men with such frozen
expressions,
Expressions that have tears life furrows of soil erosion,
Jo'burg City, you are dry like death,
Jo'burg City, Johannesburg, Jo'burg City