

ENG2603

May/June 2015

**COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL
AFRICAN LITERATURES**

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

EXAMINERS

FIRST

SECOND

MR MJ LENTO
PROF S MAITHUFI

PROF SI RADITLHALO
DR N NYIKA

Closed book examination

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This examination question paper consists of 3 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**.

SECTION A

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

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

Using the characters of Walter Younger, George Murchison and Joseph Asagai write an essay in which you discuss the relationship between pride and race in *A Raisin in the Sun*.

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

Using Patrick's speech below from *Seven Steps to Heaven* as a point of departure, discuss whether or not the character subverts racial stereotyping. In your discussion also show how the rest of the novel expands on this theme.

'That's a dangerous approach. You see, me the darkies don't like me because I get on well with the black dolls. The honkies don't like me either 'cos they say I am letting them down, trying to be black, always voting with the black students in the SRC meetings. Me I go hip-hop when my white brothers are getting high and puking and smashing each other with baseball bats at their rowdy rock sessions.'

[TURN OVER]

SECTION B

You must answer ONE question from this section

Question 3: Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*

But the situation was not hopeless. When a significant issue did arise so that it was necessary to discuss matters in depth, Nhamo's Shona - grammar, accent and all – would miraculously return for the duration of the discussion, only to disappear again mysteriously once the issue was settled. The more time Nhamo spent at Babamukuru's the more *aphasic he became and the more my father was convinced he was educated. My mother was alarmed. She knew the mission was bewitching her son and was all for making an appointment with the medium.

Using the extract above from *Nervous Conditions* as a point of departure, write an essay in which you discuss the impact that staying at the mission with Babamukuru had on Nhamo's cultural identity.

*Aphasic – a disease caused by the dysfunction in the brain. This class of language disorder ranges from having difficulty remembering words, to losing the ability to speak, read, or write.

Question 4: Michael Chapman, *The New Century of South African Poetry*

Write an essay in which you discuss how the poet, Roy Campbell, depicts motherhood in the poem 'The Zulu Girl'.

The Zulu Girl (Roy Campbell)

When in the sun the hot red acres smoulder,
Down where the sweating gang its labour plies,
A girl flings down her hoe, and from her shoulder
Unslings her child tormented by the flies

She takes him to a ring of shadow pooled
By the thorn-trees purpled with the blood of ticks,
While her sharp nails, in slow caresses ruled,
Prowl through his hair with sharp electric clicks,

5

His sleepy mouth, plugged by the heavy nipple,
Tugs like a puppy, grunting as he feeds,
Through his frail nerves her own deep languors ripple
Like a broad river sighing through its reeds

10

Yet in that drowsy stream his flesh imbibes
And old unquenched unmotherable heat-
The curbed ferocity of beaten tribes,
The sullen dignity of their defeat

15

[TURN OVER]

Her body looms above him like a hill
Within whose shade a village lies at rest,
Or the first cloud so terrible and still
That bears the coming harvest in its breast

20