

MA ENGLISH
Fourth Semester (Repeat)
AFRICAN LITERATURE
(MEN - 402)

Duration: 3Hrs.

Full Marks: 70

Part-A (Objective) =20
Part-B (Descriptive) =50

(PART-B: Descriptive)

Duration: 2 hrs. 40 mins.

Marks: 50

1. Answer the following questions (any *five*):

2×5=10

- a) Why did the boy go to meet the prophetess in “The Prophetess”?
- b) What does the letter mean to the letter writer in “Africa Kills Her Sun”?
- c) Do you think Will, Baby and Aila were unaware of Sonny’s extra-marital affair?
- d) “Palm trees, my boy, like humans experience joy and suffering”. Who says this to whom in “A Handful of Dates”?
- e) Who is Pa Ambrose in the story “Slow Poison”?
- f) What does the letter writer tell his colleagues about the need to write letter to his girlfriend whom he has not met for ten years?
- g) What according to the prophetess are the two greatest inheritances that the boy’s mother has bestowed on him?

2. Answer the following questions (any *five*):

3×5=15

- a) “This was news to me...” What is the news that the narrator refers to in “A Handful of Dates”?
- b) “Please sit down,” the nurse said softly, almost too kindly. “I am sorry I have bad news...” What is the bad news referred to in the story “Slow Poison”? Why is the news bad?

- c) How did the letter writer and his colleagues in prison react when they were brought before the Judge?
- d) “We settled into an uncanny sort of normality, an acceptance of the rearrangement of our lives to *his* convenience.” What is referred to in this passage? Discuss.
- e) “Have you ever seen anybody caught by this prophethess? Never. It’s all superstition.” Who says this in “The Prophethess”? Bring out the significance of these lines.
- f) Bring out the significance of the title of the poem “We have come home”.
- g) “I am Abiku, calling for the first/ And repeated time.” Discuss Wole Soyinka’s use of Abiku in the poem of the same name.

3. Answer the following questions (any five):

5×5=25

- a) Bring out the significance of Ken-Saro-Wiwa’s use of the letter as a form in his story “Africa Kills Her Sun” to drive home his point.
- b) Critically discuss how Achebe brings out the clash of tradition and change in *Things Fall Apart*.
- c) How does Nadine Gordimer address the trauma of apartheid in *My Son’s Story*?
- d) From your reading of the two prescribed poems “When we have come home” and “Abiku” discuss the innovations in African poetry in terms of theme, language and style.
- e) “I ran off the distance. Hearing my grandfather call after me, I hesitated a little, then continued on my way. I felt at that moment I hated him.” Critically discuss the context that makes the narrator to ‘hate’ his grandfather, someone with whom he was very close to in “A Handful of Dates”.
- f) Ngugi writes that “the quest for relevance and for a correct perspective can only be understood and be meaningfully resolved within the context of the general struggle

against imperialism.” How does he establish this ‘quest for relevance’ in the concluding chapter of *Decolonising the Mind*? Give a well-reasoned answer.

- g) In the story “Slow Poison” discuss how the writer Makuchi brings out the trauma afflicting families faced with AIDS – the “slow poison”.

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Duration: 20 minutes

Marks – 20

(PART A - Objective Type)

I. Choose the correct answer:

1×20=20

1. *Things Fall Apart* was published in the year:
a) 1956 b) 1957 c) 1958 d) 1959
2. In which year Ngugi Wa Thiongo's *Decolonising the Mind* published?
a) 1968 b) 1986 c) 1988 d) 1998
3. When was Ken-Saro-Wiwa born?
a) 1940 b) 1941 c) 1942 d) 1943
4. What is the name of the first book written by Will?
a) The Guest of Honour b) The Conservationist
c) My Son's Story d) A World of strangers
5. What is the name of the boy who was stabbed by Okonkwo?
a) Ikemifuna b) Ikemefuna
c) Kemefuna d) Kimifuna
6. Who is the central female character in *My Son's Story*?
a) Alia b) Hannah
c) Baby d) Elley
7. "If Umuofia failed to send her children to the school, strangers would come from other places to rule them", who said this?
a) Mr Brown b) Mr Kiaga
c) James d) Mr Smith
8. What is the name of the boy's mother in "The Prophetess"?
a) Masemola b) MaShange
c) MaMokoena d) Sisi
9. Who is the writer of the story "A Handful of Dates"?
a) Tayib Salih b) Tayeb Salin
c) Tayeb Salih d) Tayib Salim
10. Whom is the letter addressed to in the story "Africa Kills her Son"?
a) Zoli b) Zole
c) Zola d) Zoul

11. What did the boy do when the holy water was spilt on the way?
a) He took a bottle near the kennel, filled it with tap water and wiped it with his trousers.
b) He picked the bottle and refilled it with water from the tap.
c) He found a bottle nearby, cleaned it and filled it with water from a well.
d) He went back to the prophetess, but took a bottle nearby her place and filled it with tap water.
12. According to Ngugi Wo Thiongo, the most crucial debate on politics of literature was resolved by debunking the euro Centric syllabus and introduction of African, European and other literature in the department. But there was still a problem that how would the centre relate to the periphery, the solution to which was given as:
a) To study the historical context of the rise of English Studies in Africa.
b) To study the kind of literature an African student was likely to encounter.
c) To study the role of culture in the imperialist domination.
d) All three.
13. Name the two colleagues of the letter writer who are in prison with him.
a) Sazun and Jimba b) Sajim and Samba
c) Sazen and Jumba d) Sazan and Jimba
14. What is the name of the narrators neighbour in "A Handful of Dates"?
a) Mahmud b) Masud
c) Masod d) Masood
15. Which country in Africa does Ken-Saro-Wiwa belong to?
a) Sudan b) Nigeria
c) Kenya d) Johannesburg
16. The Black Maria will take the narrator and his friends to:
a) Stadium b) Beach
c) Stadium and Beach d) Stadium or Beach
17. Who were at the boy's house when he returned after meeting the prophetess?
a) MaShange b) MaMokoena
c) Masemola d) All of them
18. Who died of slow poison in the story "Slow Poison"?
a) Neighbour of Manoji b) Manoji
c) Neighbour's son d) (a and b)
19. What did the letter writer instruct the bank to do with the small sum of money he had in the bank?
a) To give it to his girlfriend to invest that money on his tombstone.
b) To give it to his girlfriend to make a stone sculpture of him.
c) To give it to his girlfriend to make his photograph appear in the newspaper.
d) He wanted her to put an epitaph on his gravestone with that money.

