

SUBJECT: LITERATURE IN ENGLISH EXAMINATION (100 marks)

COMBINATIONS:

- **ENGLISH-FRENCH-KINYARWANDA(EFK)**
- **ENGLISH-KINYARWANDA-KISWAHILI(EKK)**
- **HISTORY-ECONOMICS-LITERATURE(HEL)**
- **HISTORY-GEOGRAPHY-LITERATURE(HGL)**
- **LITERATURE-ECONOMICS-GEOGRAPHY(LEG)**

DURATION: 3HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not open this question paper until you are told do so.
2. Write your name and index number on the answer booklet as written on your registration form.
3. This paper consists of **THREE** Sections: **A, B** and **C**

Section A: Prose and Poetry/**40 marks**

Section B: Plays/**30 marks**

Section C: Novels/**30 marks**

SECTION A: Prose and Poetry**/40 marks**

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow/25 marks

THE WEDDING

This is an account of a wedding from Samuel Kahiga's novel, *the Girl from Abroad*.

The wedding was in December and so I could attend it. Some dates stick out. December fifth. A week before Kenya's independence. Two great ceremonies for the neighborhood to look forward to.

I was not to be left out. I polished my pointed shoes and put on my best jeans. I put on a hat and a scarf. Always dressed to kill, that was me. My dream girl was being married to a fellow whose face I did not like, but there were other birds to kill.

I joined the crowd at their home. Tradition said that she must wait in the house with her pretty little maids until he came for her, she was in there now, surrounded by them and waiting. I heard someone say that the bridegroom and his part were an hour late. Someone else replied that the distance from Murang'a to Kangemi was not like that from the nose to the eye. We must be patient. He would be come for her.

What if he didn't turn up, I thought. The neighborhood would just laugh and then go home. And she would kill herself from shame. The goat with a broken leg.

"Are these people from Murang'a coming or not?" an impatient woman cried. She was dressed in traditional goatskins, dressed for her part, which was to bargain with the bridegroom's people. For a child does not leave her home just like that./ Those people from Muranga's would have to pay dearly for being late. Kangemi people were very particular about time and did not like to be kept waiting.

Peter Mboca, who was going to give away the bride, paced around and looked at his watch. He was a grey old man in a smart suit, and he was one of the richer uncles. He paced around, his lips moving. He was rehearsing the speech he would make later. How good Liz was.....and how very obedient, how hard-working , how bright in school....

At least they came. They announced their coming with the aggressive ns. blare of car-horns. Popoooooooo. Pipeeeee. We were not very impressed. Although we could not see over the hedge and the tall maize, we could tell from their sound that it was a small procession.

I hurried to see them arrive. A Peugeot, a Toyota, a Volkswagen.

A woman spat into the grass. “ Three filthy cars. Not even decorated”. “It must have been raining in Murang’a,” someone said.

True the custom the Peugeot with the bridegroom stayed outside the gate while the other two cars came in. The bridegroom waits in dignity while his best man gets the bride for him.

The cars stopped their blaring and out of the Toyota shot a young man. He wore a three-piece suit and had a red flower sticking out from his breast pocket. Smart but muddy, we thought. The rain must have been terrible at Murang’a. This must be the best man. Very young chap. Very smart, but very muddy. We could see that he had done his best to wipe the mud off his new shoes.

Another fellow came out of the Volkswagen, leaving others inside. A murmur of astonishment passed through the crowd. This chap was so muddy he would have stayed in the car. He was short and solid-looking.

Our women closed in and asked sarcastically what these muddy people wanted. The shy best man, trying to look as confident and as brave as a best man should, said they have come for the bride. Two muddy brave warriors, come for the bride! So!

“Is there no water where you come from?” Our women shot back. “Is our girl going where there is no water?”

The short fellow said, “This mud, not just soil, mother. It means Murang’a is not as dry as people say, but full of water.”

Smart answer. Some women nodded and approved. Murang’a was full of water and water was good.

The slender best man began to explain how “in fact....”

“Don’t speak English to us. We are not Europeans.”

He coughed and smiled. He was quite a charming young fellow but this was obviously the first time he had got mixed up in these things. He started again. Without using English words like “in fact” and “actually” he explained that they had got stuck in the mud and had had to pay a tractor to drag the cars out of the mess.

1. COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY

I. Choose the best answer to these questions. /15 marks

1. How did the writer feel about the marriage?
 - a. He was upset because the girl he liked was getting married to some else.
 - b. He was happy to be there.
 - c. He had mixed feelings: he was losing the girl he liked, but he was sure to find some else.
2. How was the writer dressed?
 - a. In modern, stylish clothes
 - b. In an elegant suit
 - c. In old clothes
3. How far did the bridegroom have to travel that day?
 - a. A short distance
 - b. Quite a long way
 - c. We don't know
4. Why did the bridegroom wait in car?
 - a. It was traditional for the best man to go and get the bride
 - b. He was feeling upset because of what had happened on the journey
 - c. He was afraid of the women.
5. What language did the best man speak when he started to explain why they were covered in mud?
 - a. Gikuyu (their mother tongue)
 - b. English
 - c. Gikuyu with some English words.

II. Vocabulary

A. Match the expressions from the text on the left with the explanations on the right./6 marks

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. To pace around. | a) To say something in a way which is meant |
| to upset the | person you are speaking to or make them |
| feel uncomfortable | |
| 2. To be particular | b) To walk first in one direction then in |
| another because you are worried about something. | |
| 3. To be sarcastic | c) To have a very high standard with regard |
| to something. | |

B. Explain the expressions below from the passage. /4 marks

1. Always dressed to kill.
2. My dream girl.

2. POETRY/15 marks

Read the following poem and answer its questions.

I REMEMBER (NaomiMnthali (Malawi)

I remember, countrymen,
The days of 'dawn over the land'.
Of hopes and expectations
When I truly understood
Slavery was a thing of the past-
We, the people of the land,
Had been freed.
I was there when slowly
Darkness set in.
The gradual destruction
Was there in front of me,
But I did not see it.
I continued, Countrymen, to live in the past.
And when I finally looked
It was too late, and even I
Had become a scavenger.

Questions

- a) The poet talks about "the days of Dawn over the land" what do you think this means?
/2marks
- b) There is one metaphorical expression in the poem. Mention it.
/2marks
- c) " I was there when slowly darkness set in "what does this statement imply?**/2marks**
- d) Comment on the use of allusion in the poem. **/3marks**

- e) What message do you draw from the poem?
/6marks

SECTION B: PLAYS

/30 marks

3. Choose ONE of the two passages below, read it carefully and then answer the questions that follow as concisely as possible.

Either: PART I: ROBERT BOLT: *A Man For All Seasons*

MORE yes (*Heats a morsel*) you still make superlative custard, Alice.

ALICE Do I?

MORE That's a nice dress you have on.s

ALICE It's my cooking dress.

MORE It's very nice anyway. Nice colour.

ALICE (*Turns. Quietly*) By God, you think very little of me. (*Mounting bitterness*)

I know I am a fool. But I'm no such fool as at this time to be lamenting for

my dresses! Or to relish complimenting on my custard!

MORE (*Regarding her with frozen attention. He nods once or twice*) I am well

rebuked. (*He holds out his hand*) A1-

ALICE No! (*She remains where she is, glaring at him*)

MORE (*He is in great fear of her*) I am faint when I think of the worst that they

may do to me. But worse than that would be to go with you not

understanding why I go.

ALICE I don't!

MORE (*Just hanging on to his self-possession*) Alice, if you can tell me that

you understand, I think I can make a good death, if I have to.

ALICE Your death's no "good" to me!

MORE Alice, you must tell me that you understand!

ALICE I don't! (*She throws it straight at his head*) I don't believe this had to happen.

MORE (*His face is drawn*) If you say that, Alice, I don't see how I'm to face it.

ALICE It's the truth!

MORE (*Gasping*) you're an honest woman.

ALICE Much good may it do me! I'll tell you what I'm afraid of: that when You've gone, I shall hate you for it.

MORE (*Turns from her, his face working*) Well, you mustn't, Alice, that's all.

(*Swiftly she crosses the stage to him, he turns and they clasp each other fiercely*) you mustn't, you—

ALICE (*Covers his mouth with her hand*) S-s-sh.... As for understanding, I understand you're the best man that I ever met or am likely to, and if

God's you go- well, God knows why I suppose-though as God's my

witness God's kept deadly quiet about it! And if anyone wants my opinion

of the King and his Council they've only to ask for it!

MORE Why, it's a lion I married! A lion!

Questions

- a) Explain briefly where this scene takes place. /4marks
- b) What does More mean by "worse than that would be to go with you not understanding why I go"? /4marks
- c) From this scene and elsewhere in the play, describe the attitude of Alice towards her husband and his reaction to it. /4marks

- d) Describe what takes place immediately after this exchange between
Alice and her husband.
/3marks

2. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Romeo and Juliet*

ROMEO: He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

Who is already sick and pale with grief,

That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

Be not her maid, since she is envious;

Her vestal livery is but sick and green

And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.

It is my lady, O, it is my love!

O, that she knew she were!

She speaks yet she says nothing: what of that?

Her eye discourages; I will answer it.

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:

Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so brightly

That birds would sing and think it were not night.

See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

O, that I were a glove upon that hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET: Ay me!

ROMEO: She speaks:

O, speak again, bright angel! For thou art
As glorious to this night, being o'er my head
As is a winged messenger of heaven
Unto the white-upturned wondering eyes
Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him
When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds
And sails upon the bosom of the air.

JULIET: O Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be Capulet.

Questions

- i.** When and where does this scene take place? **/2 marks**
- ii.** Give the meaning of “ He jests at scars that never felt a wound” **/3 marks**
- iii.** Using examples from the passage, identify the kind of imagery Romeo uses about Juliet **/4 marks**
- iv.** Is this passage a dialogue between Romeo and Juliet? Identify and explain the theatrical technique used in this passage. **/3 marks**
- v.** Explain the meaning by “O.....Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo? **/3 marks**

4. Choose ONE play and answer the question on it. /15 marks

A) WOLE SOYINKA *The Trials of Brother Jero*

Jero is always seen with his velvet cape, which is of great importance to him. Discuss its role in the play. As well as its symbolic significance in the play.

B) FRANCIS IMBUGA *Betray in the City*

Compare and contrast the characters of Mulili and Boss in *Betrayal in the city*

**SECTION
/30 marks**

C:

NOVELS

PART I.

**5. Choose ONE of the two passages below; read it carefully and then answer the questions that follow as concisely as possible.
/15 marks**

Either WILLIAM GOLDING: *Lord of The Flies*

"I gave you food," said Jack, "and my hunters will protect you from the beast. Who will join my tribe?"

"I'm chief," said Ralph, "because you chose me. And we were going to keep the fire going. Now you run after food—"

"you ran yourself!" shouted Jack. "Look at that bone in your hands!" Ralph went crimson.

"I said you are hunters. That was your job."

Jack ignored him again.

"Who'll join my tribe and have fun? "

"I'm chief," said Ralph tremulously. "And what about fire? And I've got the conch."

"You haven't got it with you," said Jack, sneering "You left it behind. See, clever? And the conch doesn't count at this end of the island—"

"I'll blow the conch," said Ralph breathlessly. "and call an assembly."

"We shan't hear it."

Piggy touched Ralph's wrist.

"Come away. There's going to be trouble. And we've had our meat."

There was a blink of bright beyond the forest and the thunder exploded again so that a littlun started to whine. Big drops of rain fell among them making individual sounds when they struck.

“Going to be a storm,” said Ralph “and you we’ll have rain like when we dropped here. Who’s clever now? Where are your shelters? What are you going to do about that?”

The hunters were looking uneasily at the at the sky, flinching from the stroke of the drops. A wave of restlessness set the boys swaying and moving aimlessly. The flickering light became brighter and the blows of the thunder were only just bearable. The littluns began to run about, screaming.

Jack leapt on the sand.

“Do our dance! Come on! Dance!”

Questions

- a) Explain the “beast” referred to by Jack, giving your opinion as to whether or not his hunters can protect his ‘tribe’ from it.
/4 marks
- b) What does Ralph mean by “I’ve got the conch” and Jack by “the conch doesn’t count at the end of the island”?
/4marks
- c) What happens to the conch in the end?
/3marks
- d) Describe the dance that followed when Jack leapt on the sand and how it ended. /4 marks

OR: CHINUA ACHEBE: *Things Fall Apart*

Then they to the tree from which Okwonko’s body was dangling, and they stopped dead.

“Perhaps your men can help us bring him down and bury him”, said Obierika.

“We have sent for strangers from another village to do it for us, but they may be a long time coming’.

The district Commissioner changed instantaneously. The resolute administrator in him gave way to the student of primitive customs.

“It is against our custom,” said one of the men. “It is an abomination for a man to take his own life. It is an offence against the Earth, and a man who commits it will not be buried by his clansmen. His body is evil, and only strangers may touch it. That is we ask your people to bring him down, because you are strangers.’

“Will you bury him like any other man?” asked the Commissioner.

“We cannot bury him. Only strangers can. We shall pay your men to do it. When he has been buried we will then do our duty by him. We shall make sacrifices to cleanse the desecrated land.”

Obierika, who had been gazing steadily at his friend’s dangling body, turned suddenly to the District Commissioner and said ferociously :“That man was one of the greatest men in Umuofia. You drove him to kill himself and now he will be buried like a dog...” He could not say any more. His voice trembled and choked his words.

- a) What happened that led Okwonko to take his own life?/4 marks
- b) How far is Obierika correct in saying: “You drove him to kill himself”/3 marks
- c) Why did the clansmen refuse to bury Okwonko’s body? Give an example of the sentence from the passage that shows how they have refused.
- d) In what ways was Okwonko one of the greatest men in Umuofia? /4 marks
- e) Apart from his official role, what is the Commissioner’s interest in inquiring into the death of Okwonko?/2marks

PART II. 6.Choose ONE novel and answer the question on it. /15 marks

Either: PART I: a) NGUGI WA THIONG’O: *The River Between*

Identify Three problems Wayiaki had in trying to reconcile Kameno and Makuyu. To what extent did succeed or fail?

Or: PART II:b)CAMARA LAYE :*The African Child*

Describe CamaraLaye’s friendship with two other boys and show the things that made them intimate. What eventually happened to this friendship?

Or: PART III:c)ELECHI AMADI:*The Concubine*

Using examples from the novel, discuss Anyika’s role in *The Concubine*.

END