

KABARAK



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2013/2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR EDUCATION ARTS

LITE 410: AFRICAN POETRY

DAY: MONDAY

DATE: 9/12/2013

TIME: 8.00 – 10.00 A.M.

STREAM: Y4S1

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer 3 questions in total. Question 1 is compulsory

1. Citing specific examples, discuss the defining characteristics of African poetry associated with any THREE of the following phases:
 - a. Pioneering phase
 - b. The colonial phase
 - c. Post-colonial phase
 - d. Contemporary phase

(10 marks each x 3 = 30 marks)

2. With references to Leopold Sedar Senghor discuss the distinctive features of Negritude poetry. (20 marks)

3. *Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.*

The splash

Under warm sunshine,
A pond of water rests, calm and serene.
The blue sky inhabits the middle of the pond,
And its sides reflect the greenery,

Spotted with the yellow and the red,
The red and the violet
The water, the sky, the vegetation,
Hand in hand convey harmony and peace.
Then comes the splash!
And a tremendous stirring surges:
Reflections distort,
Giving way to a rushing flow of ripples
Ripples innumerable,
All fleeing from the wound.
Time elapses,
Ripples fade,
Reflections regain their shape,
And once again emerges the pond
Smooth and tranquil.
But the stone!
The stone will always cling to the bottom.

(Yusuf O. Kassam)

- a) What do you think this poem is about? (3 marks)
- b) What is implied by the use of colour imagery (lines 4, 5,6)? (4 marks)
- c) Identify and explain two stylistic devices used in this poem other than colour imagery. (4 marks)
- d) Describe the tone of this poem (3 marks)
- e) Explain the meaning of the last two lines. (3 marks)
- f) Explain the message of the following words as they are used in the poem: (3 marks)
 - Surges
 - Fade
 - Tranquil

4. Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.

A Militant's Poem by Jorge Rebelo

Mother
I have a gun of iron
Your own son
He whom one day you saw
Chained
(and wept
As though the chains had bound
And cut
Your own hands your own feet)
Your son is free now, mother,

Your son has a gun of iron
My gun
I will shutter all the chains
I will open all the prisons
I will destroy all the tyrants
I will give the land back to our people.
Mother, it is beautiful to fight for freedom
In every bullet i shoot, there is a message of justice
And old dreams wake like birds.
In the hour of combat, in the battle front
Your image comes close to me.
It is you too, i am fighting, mother
That you should not have tears in your eyes.

(From **When the Bullets Begin to Flower** edited by Margaret Dickinson. East African Publishing House: Nairobi, 1972)

- a) Who is the persona in this poem? (2 marks)
- b) Using illustrations, describe the kind of society the persona comes from. (4 marks)
- c) The persona seems to be exuding confidence. Why? (4 marks)
- d) What do you think “Mother” symbolizes? (4 marks)
- e) Explain the meaning of the following lines:
 - i. And old dreams wake like birds (2 marks)
 - ii. Your image comes close to me (2 marks)
 - iii. That you should not have tears in your eyes (2 marks)