

G12 ECZ LITERATURE P2 2019 GCE SOLUTIONS

Grade 12 ECZ Literature in English Paper 2, 2019 GCE (2011/2)

Essay questions on 7 set books -- answer any 3; all 7 covered here

Candidates answer only 3 of these 7 books' questions. All 7 are answered here for maximum usefulness.



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EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

Examination for School Certificate Ordinary Level

Literature in English

Paper 2

2011/2

Friday

15 NOVEMBER 2019

Additional Material(s):

Answer Booklet

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Marks: 60

Instructions to Candidates

- 1 Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- 2 There are seven questions in this paper; answer only three questions based on three different books.
- 3 Each of the seven questions has two parts clearly indicated 'either' and 'or'. You will answer only one indicated as either (i) or (ii) and not both questions for each of the three books.
- 4 Write your answers on the separate Answer Booklet provided.
- 5 If you use more than one answer booklet, fasten the booklets together

Information for Candidates

- 1 All questions in this paper carry equal marks. Each answer is marked out of 20.
- 2 Dictionaries and textbooks are not allowed in the examination room.
- 3 Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the examination room.

There are seven (7) questions in this paper, answer only three (3) based on three (3) different texts. You must answer each question in detail.

1 ACHEBE: Arrow of God

Either (i) Retrace the origin of Umuaro village stating the reason it was founded.

Or (ii) "It had never happened before that an emissary of Umuaro was killed abroad." State the circumstances leading to the killing of the Umuaro emissary.

2 p' BITEK: Song of Lawino

Either (i) Lawino says "I am ignorant of the Good Word in the Clean Book." How true is this of Lawino?

Or (ii) What is Lawino's attitude to both Protestant and Catholic priests? What is their attitude to questions and which questions specifically?

3 SINYANGWE: Quills of Desire

Either (i) Chambuleni advises his son, "They say look after your neck; the beads to wear around it are as easy to find as the droppings of a chicken". Explain in detail the meaning of this saying and describe the **three** occasions when the proverb is used and why it is used.

Or (ii) Describe the role of superstition in the preparation and success in examination according to the novel.

4 GOGOL: The Government Inspector

Either (i) Deceit is one of the themes that Gogol tackles in this play. Using the two characters, the Mayor and Hlestakov, show how he exploits this theme.

Or (ii) Compare and contrast the behaviour of the Mayor and his wife when they:

(a) get the news that the Inspector is in town at the Inn.

(b) when they host him at their home.

5 SHAKESPEARE: Romeo and Juliet

Either (i) Describe the two feuding families in the play 'Romeo and Juliet' bringing out how they experience a bitter reconciliation.

Or (ii) Narrate the events that lead to the tragic end of Romeo and Juliet.

6 GOLDING: Lord of the Flies

Either (i) Both Simon and Piggy suffer violent deaths. Explain how they meet their deaths and how their deaths affect Ralph.

Or (ii) "Describe the attitudes of Maurice, Jack, Piggy and Simon to the beast when its presence on the island is discussed at the meeting.

7 NGUGI: The River Between

Either (i) Describe the character of Mugo' wa Kabiro bringing out his contribution to the plot of the novel.

Or (ii) In describing Kameno and Makuyu, the author says in part, "When you stood in the valley, the two ridges ceased to be sleeping lions united They became antagonists ... like two rivals ready to come to blows in a life and death struggle for the leadership of this isolated region."

With reference to the novel, show how the two ridges, Kameno and Makuyu, are actually antagonists struggling for the leadership of their isolated region.

Question 1. ACHEBE, Arrow of God -- EITHER (i): Retrace the origin of Umuaro village, stating the reason it was founded.

Answer: Umuaro was formed through the union of six neighbouring villages -- Umuachala, Umunneora, Umuagu, Umuezeani, Umuogwugwu and Umuisiuzo -- who came together for their mutual protection and survival against the constant threat of external enemies and slave raiders in the region. Rather than remaining as small, individually vulnerable settlements, the six villages recognised the strategic necessity of unity in the face of shared danger.

Answer: To cement and give spiritual authority to this new confederation, the founding elders created a new deity, Ulu, specifically to serve as the unifying god of all six villages combined, transcending any single village's original ancestral gods. A priest, Ezeulu, was appointed as Chief Priest of Ulu, tasked with performing the rituals (particularly the naming of the sacred months and the New Yam festival) that maintain Ulu's authority and, by extension, the political and spiritual cohesion of Umuaro as a whole. This origin story is central to the novel's central conflict, since it establishes Ezeulu's priestly authority as fundamentally a product of communal agreement and necessity -- power granted BY the people for their protection -- a nuance that becomes critically important when Ezeulu's own sense of personal authority later comes into conflict with the collective will of Umuaro.

Question 2. P'BITEK, Song of Lawino -- OR (ii): What is Lawino's attitude to both Protestant and Catholic priests? What is their attitude to questions, and which questions specifically?

Answer: Lawino views both Protestant and Catholic priests with a mixture of bafflement, mockery and sharp critical scepticism. She observes with biting irony that although both claim to worship the same God and preach seemingly similar messages, they are bitterly divided against one another, refusing to worship together or even acknowledge each other's legitimacy -- a contradiction Lawino finds absurd, since if their God is truly one and the same, their mutual hostility makes no logical sense to her from her own traditional worldview, which does not divide spiritual truth into such rigid, competing camps.

Answer: Lawino's central grievance is that both sets of priests refuse to tolerate genuine questioning of their doctrines -- when she or others ask sincere questions about apparent contradictions in Christian teaching (such as the exact nature of the Holy Trinity, the mystery of the virgin birth, or why the priests forbid practices, like polygamy or ancestral rites, that are deeply meaningful within Acoli tradition), they are met with evasive answers, admonishments to simply have 'faith', or outright dismissal, rather than honest engagement. This treatment of her genuine curiosity as improper or even sinful is one of Lawino's key sources of frustration with the imported religion her husband Ocol has embraced, reinforcing the poem's broader argument that Western institutions (religious and educational) demand unquestioning submission in ways that traditional Acoli culture, as Lawino presents it, does not.

Question 3. SINYANGWE, Quills of Desire -- EITHER (i): Chambuleni advises his son, 'They say look after your neck; the beads to wear around it are as easy to find as the droppings of a chicken.' Explain the meaning of this saying and describe the three occasions when the proverb is used.

[BEST-EFFORT -- this is a Zambian set text this builder has much thinner specific knowledge of; a fuller answer would need the exact chapters in which this proverb recurs.]

Answer: Best-effort: the proverb's underlying meaning is likely that a person should first take care of and secure their own essential wellbeing and survival ('look after your neck') before concerning themselves with life's more decorative or secondary pleasures and ambitions ('the beads to wear around it'), which are comparatively abundant and easy to acquire ('as easy to find as the droppings of a chicken') once one's fundamental needs are met. Chambuleni is likely counselling his son to prioritise practical survival, responsibility, or core life necessities (such as education, livelihood, or family duty) ahead of more superficial pursuits like romance, status or material pleasures.

Answer: Best-effort regarding the three occasions: such a proverb would likely recur at key decision points in the son's life where he is tempted to pursue a more superficial or risky path (perhaps romantic pursuits or ambitions) at the expense of more fundamental responsibilities, with Chambuleni or another figure invoking the saying each time as a repeated moral touchstone; the precise three specific scenes are not confidently recalled here without the exact text.

Question 4. GOGOL, The Government Inspector -- EITHER (i): Deceit is one of the themes Gogol tackles. Using the Mayor and Hlestakov, show how he exploits this theme.

Answer: Deceit operates on multiple, ironically intertwined levels in The Government Inspector. Hlestakov, a minor, penniless clerk mistaken by the terrified town officials for a powerful incognito government inspector, initially deceives no one deliberately -- the deception is the town's own making, born of guilty consciences assuming the worst. However, once Hlestakov realises the town believes him to be someone of great importance, he eagerly and knowingly exploits this false identity, accepting bribes, borrowing money under false pretences, and even courting both the Mayor's wife and daughter simultaneously, escalating the deceit for his own personal gain with each passing scene.

Answer: The Mayor, meanwhile, embodies deceit as a way of life even before Hlestakov's arrival -- he is a deeply corrupt official who has spent years accepting bribes, covering up abuses in the hospital, courts and schools under his supervision, and manipulating the town's affairs for personal profit. His frantic efforts to bribe, flatter and deceive the man he believes to be the government inspector are simply an extension of his habitual corrupt practices, momentarily amplified by fear of exposure. Gogol's satirical genius lies in showing how Hlestakov's opportunistic, almost accidental deceit and the Mayor's calculated, habitual corruption feed off and reinforce each other -- neither man's lies could succeed without the other's willing self-deception, exposing an entire system of provincial Russian bureaucracy built on mutual dishonesty, vanity and fear, which collapses in humiliating farce once the real inspector's arrival is announced at the play's famous final twist.

Question 5. SHAKESPEARE, Romeo and Juliet -- OR (ii): Narrate the events that lead to the tragic end of Romeo and Juliet.

Answer: The tragic chain of events begins when Romeo, banished from Verona for killing Tybalt (in revenge for Tybalt's killing of Mercutio), is separated from his newly-wed wife Juliet. To avoid a forced marriage to Paris arranged by her father, Juliet, with Friar Laurence's help, takes a potion designed to make her appear dead for 42 hours, with the plan that Romeo will be informed of the ruse and secretly return to revive and reunite with her once she wakes in the Capulet tomb.

Answer: However, the crucial letter explaining this plan, sent via Friar John, fails to reach Romeo in time due to a quarantine delay caused by an outbreak of plague. Meanwhile, Romeo's servant Balthasar, unaware of the plan, brings Romeo the devastating (and false) news that Juliet is truly dead. Believing his wife to be lost forever, the grief-stricken Romeo purchases poison and rushes to the Capulet tomb, where he encounters and kills Paris (who has come to mourn Juliet), before finally drinking the poison beside Juliet's seemingly lifeless body, dying just moments before she awakens from her potion-induced sleep.

Answer: Juliet, waking to find Romeo truly dead beside her, and with Friar Laurence too fearful to stay and help her escape, chooses to end her own life with Romeo's dagger rather than live without him. The double suicide of the two young lovers finally shocks their feuding families, the Montagues and Capulets, into reconciliation, as Lord Capulet and Lord Montague agree to end their long-standing feud and erect golden statues in memory of Romeo and Juliet -- a peace tragically achieved only through the deaths of their own children, brought about by a devastating chain of miscommunication, impulsiveness, and the fatal consequences of the families' feud.

Question 6. GOLDING, Lord of the Flies -- EITHER (i): Both Simon and Piggy suffer violent deaths. Explain how they meet their deaths and how their deaths affect Ralph.

Answer: Simon, the quiet, spiritually perceptive boy who alone discovers the truth that the 'beast' the boys fear is not a real monster but the darkness within themselves (symbolised by the dead parachutist), is killed in a horrifying case of mistaken identity. Rushing down from the mountain in the dark and rain to share this crucial discovery with the other boys, he stumbles into their frenzied, ritualistic dance around the fire during a violent storm; mistaking him for the beast in the darkness and chaos, the boys (including Ralph and Piggy, caught up in the mob's hysteria) savagely beat and kill him with their bare hands and sticks.

Answer: Piggy is killed later and more deliberately, when Jack's tribe raids Ralph's dwindling group to steal Piggy's glasses (needed to make fire). When Piggy and Ralph confront Jack's tribe at Castle Rock to demand the glasses back and appeal to reason and the authority of the conch, the sadistic Roger deliberately levers a huge boulder down onto Piggy, killing him instantly and simultaneously smashing the conch shell -- the symbol of civilised order and democratic authority -- to pieces.

Answer: Both deaths devastate Ralph profoundly, marking the complete collapse of the civilised order he has tried desperately to maintain. Simon's death haunts Ralph with guilt, since he recognises (unlike most of the other boys) that they collectively and savagely killed an innocent boy rather than a real monster, revealing the primal savagery lurking within all of them, including himself. Piggy's death is even more shattering for Ralph, as it destroys his last

rational ally and confidant, along with the conch (symbolising the final destruction of order, democracy and reasoned authority on the island), leaving Ralph utterly alone, hunted by Jack's tribe, and forced to confront the full horror of how completely the boys have descended into savagery -- a devastation that culminates in his final breakdown of grief 'for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart' when he is finally rescued.

Question 7. NGUGI, *The River Between* -- EITHER (i): Describe the character of Mugo wa Kabiro, bringing out his contribution to the plot of the novel.

Answer: Mugo wa Kabiro is the legendary ancient seer/prophet of the Gikuyu people, a figure from the distant past whose famous prophecy establishes the thematic and narrative foundation for the entire novel. Long before the events of the story, Mugo wa Kabiro foretold the coming of strangers 'with clothes like butterflies' who would arrive from beyond the borders of Gikuyu land -- an unmistakable prophetic reference, understood by later generations, to the arrival of the white colonisers and Christian missionaries.

Answer: Crucially, Mugo wa Kabiro's prophecy also foretold that salvation for the Gikuyu people would come from the hills, through a chosen individual who would rise to guide the people safely through this coming upheaval, reconciling the threat of the outsiders with the preservation of Gikuyu tradition and land. This prophecy becomes central to the novel's plot because Chege, believing his own lineage bears this sacred destiny, raises and educates his son Waiyaki specifically to fulfil Mugo wa Kabiro's ancient prophecy, sending him to be educated (including at the mission school) so that he may return with the knowledge needed to lead and unite his people. Mugo wa Kabiro therefore never appears as an active character in the novel's main events, yet his ancient prophecy functions as the novel's guiding thematic thread, shaping Waiyaki's entire sense of purpose and destiny, and providing the tragic irony of the novel's ending, where Waiyaki's failure to fully or successfully embody this legendary promise of unity and salvation contributes to his devastating downfall.

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