

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2015
TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE I
COURSE CODE: AL 214/ IDE AL 214 – MAIN PAPER
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS IN ALL
- (2) DO NOT UTILIZE ONE NARRATIVE MORE THAN ONCE
- (3) QUESTION 1 IS A COMPULSORY QUESTION
- (4) EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A NEW SHEET
- (5) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND GOOD ORGANIZATION OF CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER
- (6) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

Question 1 is compulsory

Chinweizu's essay, "Redrawing the Map of African literature" articulates his scepticism with the dominance of Euroassimilationist tendencies in African literary scholarship. What are the main points of this scepticism? What insights does this essay shed on the study of African orature? (33 points)

Question 2

"Praise names and totems of different clans are valuable sources of cultural/historical data about those clans. However, they [praise names and totems] must be handled with utmost care." Support this view with the aid of praise names and totems of your choice. (33 points)

Question 3

"Though nursery rhymes and baby praises are ostensibly about the baby or child, they more often than not highlight issues beyond the baby/child in question." How far do you agree with this assessment of nursery rhymes and baby's praises? Support your reaction with evidence from data of your own choice.

(33 points)

Question 4

What enables folktales with simple plot structures to be aesthetically rich and subsequently very rewarding? Discuss this issue with reference to a folktale of your choice. (33 points)