

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER, 2016
TITLE OF PAPER: POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA
COURSE CODE: AL 213/ IDE AL 213
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS; AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION
- (2) DO NOT UTILIZE ONE POEM OR PLAY MORE THAN ONCE
- (3) COMMENCE EACH QUESTION ON A NEW SHEET
- (4) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION OF RESPONSE CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER
- (5) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS

SECTION A: POETRY

QUESTION 1

The poem below, titled 'The call,' can be read at two levels: as a love poem as well as the call of eternity on man. Discuss and give textual support from the poem for these two levels of meaning and then suggest the most rewarding reading.

The call

We all dream of conquering time
so the knees may not grow sore
with earth pleading, so death may
be put to shame and into the shade.

But time and death are what dreams
are made of, banging at
the very doors of the day-night eye.

Dust or clay I have played
prodigal enough with such great epics
to feed the limbs and voices
of inspiration marking my human limits.

But not with you, distant call,
whose faith is sun to my spirit,
moon to my spear; while life
and love like one great staircase
grow with each climb which will end
at the top floor of the last day . . .

I remember the lures of that ancient call
when my cock wings flapped and fluttered
in pursuit of your tail and I had to
pelt you with wild-olive

promising with all the somersault
to wait on this great green side
till the dark clouds have cleared.

QUESTION 2

Discuss the twin themes of cultural longing and nostalgia in at least two poems of David Diop.

SECTION B: DRAMA

QUESTION 3

"The fates of the idiot Ifada and Eman the teacher intersect with tragic consequences for both of them." What factors motivate Eman to embrace Ifada's fate?

QUESTION 4

"*A Dance of Forests* is a moral and even didactic play." Discuss this view with evidence from the text of the play.

QUESTION 5

Discuss the treatment of tragic elements in Wole Soyinka's *The Strong Breed*.

QUESTION 6

In your view, why is setting of the play so crucial to the thematic concerns of Soyinka's *A Dance of Forests*? Answer with textual support from the play.