

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2016
TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY AND DRAMA
COURSE CODE: IDE 114 (for IDE students only)
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

Read the poem below and answer the following questions.

An abandoned bundle

The morning mist
and chimney smoke
of White City Jabavu
flowed thick yellow
as pus oozing
from a gigantic sore.

It smothered our little houses
like fish caught in a net

Scavenging dogs
draped in red bandanas of blood
fought fiercely
for a squirming bundle

I threw a brick;
they bared fangs
flicked velvet tongues of scarlet
and scurried away,
leaving a mutilated cops –
an infant dumped on a rubbish heap –
“Oh Baby in the Manger

sleep well

on human dung.”

Its mother

had melted into the rays of the rising sun,

her face glittering with innocence

her heart as pure as untrampled dew.

- (a) Discuss how the poet uses the physical environment to comment on social morality and human behaviour. (12 points)
- (b) How are sound devices used to intensify the mood in the poem? (9 points)
- (c) Comment on the way Biblical allusion deepens the thematic concerns of the poem. (12 points)

QUESTION 2

Discuss the use of irony as a stylistic device and as a means to advance theme in 'Ungumfowethu Wempela.

QUESTION 3

“Poetry necessarily doesn't and cannot, like legal language, say one thing and that only.” Support this view with evidence from at least two poems we have studied this semester.

SECTION B: DRAMA

QUESTION 4

The title, *Of Heroes and Men*, hints at the themes of the play. Can you distinguish between mere men/women and s/heroes in the play? Discuss this question using evidence from the play.

QUESTION 5

"Zodwa Sithebe's *The Paper Bride* is one of the most successful fusions of human tragedy and comedy I have come across." To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view? Support your response with evidence from the text of the play.

QUESTION 6

"Granted, Samuel's mother is a stock character. However, it's the depiction of her relationship with her son and daughter-in-law that elevates her to more than a mere stock character." How far do you agree with this assessment of Samuel's mother's depiction in Sithebe's *The Paper Bride*?