

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION
MAY 2018

COURSE NAME: SPECIAL PAPER (DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN SHORT STORY AS A GENRE)

COURSE CODE: AL 418 / IDE AL 418

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.**
- 2. EACH ANSWER SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**
- 3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.**
- 4. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.**
- 5. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**

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

QUESTION ONE

The critic Abrahams says, “regardless of the racist laws of South Africa, which seek to destroy harmonious communication between the races, there is a natural propensity among human beings to share their joy and despair.” How far can this statement be applied to Alex La Guma’s story, “A Matter of Taste.”

QUESTION TWO

How does Gordimer’s short story, “The Ultimate Safari” portray the ravages of war and the resultant displacement of people?

QUESTION THREE

“Modern African writers use normal, rational and realistic devices combined with hyperbole, irony and satire to convey the absurd.” Discuss this statement with relevant illustrations taken from either Taban lo Liyong’s “Fixions” or “Ododo Pa Apwoyo Gin Ki Lyeche: The Story of Master Hare and his Friend Jumbe Elephant”

QUESTION FOUR

Discuss the themes of conceit and loss of innocence in Salih al-Tayyib’s short story “A Handful of Dates”.

QUESTION FIVE

Discuss the climatic collision of Nwibe, the eminent representative in his traditional society with a naked and homeless opposite, the madman, in Chinua Achebe’s short story, “The Madman.”

QUESTION SIX

Read the story below and discuss how Tabang lo Liyong uses the form of a parable to ridicule the folly of prejudice and discrimination.

STARE DECISIS DEO

*Accept him .
As he is .*

So sang the Dove.

Monkey heard that while going to visit Python that Christmas day. When he arrived, Python called aloud to his mother like this:

'Mummy, Mummy, bring some food. My friend Monkey has arrived.'

Monkey was tired and hungry. 'I am so lucky,' he thought, 'I will eat to death.' He rushed to the floor where the well-cooked meal was placed.

'Monkey,' said Python, 'go and wash your hands. Nobody eats with dirty hands.'

He went, washed his hands, and hurried to where the food was.

'Do you call those hands washed?' was what Python said, 'Have some sense. Those hands are black and dirty. Use soap and warm water.'

Monkey went and did so. He returned with clean hands, palm out.

'Now, Monkey, where were you raised? How can you come to table so dirty, so smelly, so black? Get that blackness off your hands.'

Monkey took a butcher's knife, skinned away the black skin on his palms. The palms turned red, red with blood. Tears dropped from his eyes as blood dropped from his hands.

He was still hungry. He came to eat.

'How can you be so uncultured? So unintelligent? Don't touch my food with your blood. I am no cannibal.' Those were Python's words.

Monkey started for home.

The Dove was singing:

*Accept him ,
As he is .*

Another Christmas day came. Python was going to visit Monkey.

*Accept him ,
As he is .
Accept him ,
As he is .*

He heard the Dove sing.

'Countryman,' said Monkey to Python, 'you are most welcome.' Python spread his twenty-foot length on the floor, filling almost every space.

'Mama Monkey,' her son called, 'bring us the feast.' Food was brought and placed on the floor. Monkey sat on his haunches, and laid his hands on his knees.

'Now Python, my countryman,' said Monkey, 'get seated.'

Python coiled himself into a heap like tyres of different sizes.

'Mistah, we don't call that 'sittin'', said Monkey. 'Now, get seated like other folks. See what I mean?'

Python uncoiled himself. He pushed the greater part of his twenty feet outside the hut. His head was near the pot of food.

'I didn't tell you to lie on your belly. You must learn to sit, and to sit properly inside a house.' Monkey said like that.

Python assembled all of himself inside the hut. He started to sit, on his tail. His head went up, up, up, till it pierced through the roof.

Monkey ate the food. He took a cutlass and chopped off seven feet from Python's tail. Python jerked up the bulk of his squirting length through the grass roof.

They both heard the Dove singing:

*Accept him ,
As he is .
Accept him ,
As he is .*

Every day the Dove sings:

*Accept them, as they are .
Accept them, as they are .
as they are .
as they are .*

----- Taban lo Liyong