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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION – MAY, 2014

COURSE CODE: ENG206 /IDE-ENG206

COURSE NAME: A STUDY OF POETRY

DURATION: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the instructions carefully and follow them.
2. Answer **Question 1**, plus ONE other question.
3. Question 1 carries 40 marks and the rest carry 20 marks.
4. Make sure you adhere to both literary and poetic rules.
5. Make sure you proofread your work to eliminate grammatical errors and the resultant loss of marks.

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR.

PART A

QUESTION 1 - Compulsory

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow it:

“Mummy, Oh Mummy” Anon

‘Mummy, Oh Mummy, what’s this pollution
 That everyone’s talking about?’
 ‘Pollution’s the mess that the country is in,
 That we’d all be far better without.
 It’s factories belching their fumes in the air, 5
 And the beaches all covered with tar,
 Now throw all those sweets papers into the bushes
 Before we get back in the car.’

‘Mummy, Oh Mummy, who makes pollution,
 And why don’t they stop if it’s bad?’ 10
 ‘Cos people like that just don’t think about others,
 They don’t think at all, I might add.
 They spray all the crops and they poison the flowers,
 And wipe out the birds and the bees,
 Now there’s a good place we could dump that old mattress 15
 Right out of sight in the trees.’

‘Mummy, Oh Mummy, what’s going to happen
 If all the pollution goes on?’
 ‘Well, the world will end up like a second-hand junk-yard,
 With all of its treasures quite gone. 20
 The fields will be littered with plastics and tins,
 The streams will be covered with foam,
 Now throw those pop bottles over the hedge,
 Saves us from carting them home.’

‘But Mummy, Oh Mummy, if I throw the bottles, 25
 Won’t that be polluting the wood?’
 ‘Nonsense! That isn’t the same thing at all,

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You just shut up and be good.
If you're going to start getting silly ideas
I'm taking you home right away,
'Cos pollution is something that other folk do,
We're just enjoying our day.'

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- a) In not more than 10 lines, identify the poem's subject and summarize the situation it advances. [8]
- b) Identify the main figure of speech the poet employs to mirror people's attitudes towards the problem of pollution. [2]
- c) In not more than 10 lines, discuss these attitudes, using examples from the poem. [7]
- d) What is the poet's implied solution towards pollution? [4]
- e) Cite and discuss at least 3 other figures of speech used in the poem. [3]
- f) In not more than 15 lines in all, discuss their effectiveness in vivifying the intended meaning and appealing to specific senses. [9]
- g) Cite and discuss the most obvious aspects of the poem's form. [7]

[TOTAL: 40 MARKS]

PART B

QUESTION 2

"Through skillful use of imagery in the poem below, Okara evokes contrasting *sites, scenes, sounds* and *moods* about his past and present experiences."
Discuss. [20]

"Piano and Drums" Gabriel Okara

When at break of day at a riverside
I hear jungle drums telegraphing
the mystic rhythm, urgent, raw
like bleeding flesh, speaking of
primal youth and the beginning,
I see the panther ready to pounce,
the leopard snarling ready to leap
and the hunters crouch with spears poised:

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And my blood ripples, turns torrent,
 topples the years and at once I'm 10
 in my mother's lap a suckling;
 at once I'm walking simple
 paths with no innovations,
 rugged, fashioned with the naked
 warmth of hurrying feet and groping hearts 15
 in green leaves and wild flowers pulsing.

Then I hear a wailing piano
 solo speaking of complex ways
 in tear-furrowed concerto;
 of faraway lands 20
 and new horizons with
 coaxing diminuendo, counterpoint,
 crescendo. But lost in the labyrinth
 of its complexities, it ends in the middle
 of a phrase at a dagger-point. 25

And I lost in the morning mist
 of an age at a riverside keep
 wandering in the mystic rhythm
 of jungle drums and the concerto.

QUESTION 3

Identify the following sonnet's subtype and discuss how Milton used its internal division to advance his argument. [20]

"On His Blindness" John Milton

When I consider how my light is spent
 Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
 And that one Talent which is death to hide
 Lodged with me useless, though my Soul more bent
 To serve therewith my Maker, and present
 My true account, lest he returning chide,
 Doth God exact day-labour, light deny'd
 I fondly ask. But Patience to prevent
 That murmur, soon replies, God doth not need
 Either man's work or his own gifts, who best
 Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best, his State

Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed
 And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:
 They also serve who only stand and wait.

QUESTION 4

Discuss the following poem as an example of a satiric twist to a typical elegy.
 [20]

"No coffin, no grave" Jared Angira

He was buried without a coffin
 without a grave
 the scavengers performed the post-mortem
 in the open mortuary
 without sterilized knives 5
 in front of the night club

stuttering rifles put up
 the gun salute of the day
 that was a state burial anyway
 the car knelt 10
 the red plate wept, wrapped itself in blood its master's

the diary revealed to the sea
 the rain anchored there at last
 isn't our flag red, black, and white?
 so he wrapped himself well 15

who could signal yellow
 when we had to leave politics to the experts
 and brood on books
 brood on hunger
 and schoolgirls 20
 grumble under the black pot
 sleep under torn mosquito net
 and let lice lick our intestines

the lord of the bar, money speaks madam
 woman magnet, money speaks madam 25
 we only cover the stinking darkness
 of the cave of our mouths
 and ask our father who is in hell to judge him
 the quick and the good.

Well, his diary, submarine of the Third World War 30
showed he wished
to be buried in a gold-laden coffin
like a VIP
under the jacaranda tree beside his palace
a shelter for his grave 35
and much beer for the funeral party

anyway one noisy pupil suggested we bring
tractors and plow the land