

**POLITICS 3B**

**NOVEMBER 2017**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

**MARKS: 200**

**EXAMINERS: POLITICAL THOUGHT: 1. DR A OMAR**

**2. DR G WOLMARANS (UP)**

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS:**

**1. PROF Y SADIE**

**2. MR R HENWOOD (UP)**

**AFRICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT (Dr Omar)**

Answer ONE question from Section 1 and ONE question from Section 2. (Each question is worth 50 marks)

**Section 1**

1. Critically discuss the concept of the black subject in Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks*.
2. "We all want a united Africa, united not only in our concept of what unity connotes, but united in our common desire to move forward together in dealing with all the problems that can best be solved only on a continental basis" (Kwame Nkrumah, 1963).

Outline and critically discuss Nkrumah's conception of pan-Africanism. In your answer consider why Nkrumah believed pan-Africanism was a solution to the disastrous effects of colonialism and neo-colonialism on the African continent.

**Section 2**

3. "It is in relation to Africa that the notion of 'absolute otherness' has been taken the furthest. It is now widely acknowledged that Africa as an idea, a concept, has historically served, and continues to serve, as a polemical argument for the West's desperate desire to assert its difference from the rest of the world." (Achille Mbembe, 2001)  
Critically discuss Mbembe's conception of Africa's place in the Western imaginary.
4. Sankara's theoretical project was underpinned by a philosophy of revolutionary transformation. Discuss in relation to Sankara's vision for women and the ec

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## COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Prof Sadie)

Answer ONE question from Section 1 and ONE question from Section 2. (Each question is worth 50 marks)

### Section 1

1. The political reforms undertaken in China are regarded by critics as “superficial or marginal and have not significantly altered China’s political system in the direction of democracy” (Collins and Cottey, 2012:103). Assess this statement (substantiate your answer).
2. Discuss the factors which threaten democracy in Nigeria. You have to explain in what way these factors relate to democratic principles and why you regard them as obstructing the sustainability or development of democracy in the country.

### Section 2

3. Claude Ake (1996) argued two decades ago that the fate of democracy in Africa will depend on the following factors: socio-economic development, democratisation of the state, less power in the presidency, greater balance of power, democratisation of the legal system and the development of civil society. With these requirements in mind, critically analyse Africa’s democracy experience (i.e. challenges and achievements in terms of Ake’s requirements).
4. Libya and Tunisia underwent regime changes during the ‘Arab Spring’ while similar uprisings in Morocco and Algeria did not result in such changes. How can this be explained?

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