



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

JUNE EXAMINATION 2019

COURSE: ENGLISH 1A

TIME: 3 HOURS

COURSE CODE: ENG1A11; ENG1AA1

MARKS: 200

EXAMINERS:

1. Dr T. Tsehloane
Dr V. Collis-Buthelezi
Dr. M. Dass

2. Prof. S. Mngadi

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS ONE FROM EACH SECTION.
2. PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN A SEPARATE BOOK, AND WRITE THE NUMBER OF THE QUESTION ON THE FRONT OF THE EXAM BOOKLET.

SECTION A: Short Stories

Question 1:

Explain and explore the concept of the “story within the story” in Eric Walrond’s “The Vampire Bat”.

OR

Question 2

Write an essay in which you discuss the significance of the setting of Can Themba’s “The Suit”.

Tips:

- Remember that setting implies both where *and* when a narrative is set. It therefore includes the social and political context that the story depicts.
- In order to discuss *the effects* of setting, it will be necessary to relate ideas to the themes/concerns of the story.

SECTION B: Novels

Question 3:

J.D. Salinger: *The Catcher in the Rye*

Using the passage below as your starting point, discuss Salinger’s use of an alienated first-person narrator’s point of view to reflect on:

- (i) post-WWII America’s consumer society;
- (ii) the alienation of the individual in this society; and
- (iii) the critical and redemptive role of literature or art, shown through a number of characters in the narrative.

Finally, what I decided I’d do, I decided I’d go away. I decided I’d never go home again and I’d never go away to another school again. I decided I’d just see old Phoebe and sort of say good-bye to her and all . . . , and then I’d start hitchhiking my way out West. What I’d do, I figured, I’d go down to the Holland Tunnel and bum a ride, and then I’d bum another one, and another one, and another one, and in a few days I’d be somewhere out West where it was very pretty and sunny and where nobody’d know me and I’d get a job. I figured I could get a job at a filling station somewhere, putting gas and oil in people’s cars. I didn’t care what kind of job it was, though. Just so people didn’t know me and I didn’t know anybody. I thought what I’d do was, I’d pretend I was one of those deaf-mutes. That way I wouldn’t have to have any goddam stupid conversations with anybody. If anybody wanted to tell me something, they’d

have to write it on a piece of paper and shove it over to me. They'd be bored as hell doing that after a while, and then I'd be through with having conversations for the rest of my life. Everybody'd think I was just a poor deaf-mute bastard and they'd leave me alone. They'd let me put gas and oil in their stupid cars, and they'd pay me a salary and all for it, and I'd build me a little cabin somewhere with the dough I made and live there for the rest of my life. I'd build it right near the woods, but not right in them, because I'd want it to be sunny as hell all the time. I'd cook all my own food, and later on, if I wanted to get married or something, I'd meet this beautiful girl that was also a deaf-mute and we'd get married. She'd come and live in my cabin with me, and if she wanted to say something to me, she'd have to write it on a goddam piece of paper, like everybody else. If we had any children, we'd hide them somewhere. We could buy them a lot of books and teach them how to read and write by ourselves.

J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*, Chapter 25

(100)

OR

Question 4:

Niq Mhlongo *After Tears*

“Our days as part of the poor walking class of Mzansi will soon be over [...]” (2007: 14).

Using the above quotation as your starting point, discuss how Niq Mhlongo's *After Tears* features a protagonist and other characters whose grandiose expectations of unlimited material prosperity are deflated by the harsh reality of their social environment.

(100)

END OF PAPER