



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

JULY SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2019

COURSE: ENGLISH 2A

TIME: 3 HOURS

COURSE CODE: ENG2A11 ENG2AA1

MARKS: 300

EXAMINERS: 1. Prof S Mngadi
Ms D Labuschagne
Dr T Tsehloane

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES

Instructions:

1. THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) SECTIONS, AND FOUR (4) QUESTIONS. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION A, ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION B, AND ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION C. IN OTHER WORDS, QUESTION 3 AND QUESTION 4 ARE COMPULSORY, WHILE YOU CAN CHOOSE BETWEEN QUESTIONS 1 AND 2.
2. THIS PAPER IS THREE (3) HOURS IN LENGTH.
3. PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN A SEPARATE EXAM BOOKLET, AND WRITE THE NUMBER OF THE QUESTION ON THE FRONT OF THE BOOKLET.

SECTION A: The Drum Decade

QUESTION 1:

Yes he had a sense of humour; and he was also the understanding kind. He knew about his great strength and seldom exercised it recklessly. (Themba)

Write an essay in which you discuss the ambivalent role of the protagonist as a black apartheid policeman in Can Themba's "Ten-to-Ten".

(100)

OR

QUESTION 2:

Nadia Street was reputed to be the quietest street in Newclare. Not that it is any different from other streets. It has its own dirty water, its own flies, its own horse manure; its own pot-bellied children with traces of urine down the legs. The hawker's trolley still slogs along in Nadia Street, and the cloppity-clop from the hoofs of the over-fed mare is still part of the street. (Mphahlele)

Using the above extract as a starting point, write an essay in which you discuss how Mphahlele's "Down the Quiet Street" filters its narrative through the collective consciousness of its inhabitants.

(100)

SECTION B: *Mine Boy*, Peter Abrahams

QUESTION 3:

The following conversation between Di and Paddy O'Shea marks the shift in the narrative from a focus on Xuma the man, to the broader political world of Johannesburg and the mines:

'So many of the people who consider themselves progressive have their own weird notions about the native, but they all have one thing in common. They want to decide who the good native is and they want to do good things for him. You know what I mean. They want to lead him. To tell him what to do. They want to think for him and he must

accept their thoughts. And they like him to depend on them. Your Zuma makes an excellent “good native” for progressive folk. That’s why you like him.’

‘That’s not true, Di. And I think you’re being unfair.’

(Abrahams)

Write an essay in which you discuss how this shift in narrative focus also marks a shift in Xuma’s political consciousness.

(100)

SECTION C: Zoo City, Lauren Beukes

QUESTION 4:

The shocking way in which Beukes’s novel ends leads to Mandlakazi Mabuso’s comment that in post-democratic South African society, “you never know who’s a zoo” (305).

Write an essay in which you discuss how this comment is linked to the Gothic qualities of the novel, especially in “the possibility of things beyond reason and explanation, in the shape of awesome and terrifying characters, and inexplicable and profound events” (Bowen, 2014).

You must reference the novel, where relevant, in order to substantiate your argument.

(100)

END OF PAPER