

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

JANUARY SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2020

COURSE: ENGLISH 2B

TIME: 3 HOURS

COURSE CODE: ENG2BB2 ENG2B21

MARKS: 200

EXAMINERS: 1. Ms R Adonis
2. Prof R Frenkel

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR (4) PAGES

Instructions:

1. **THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO (2) SECTIONS, AND FOUR (4) QUESTIONS. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION A AND ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION B.**
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: *We Need New Names*, NoViolet Bulawayo

QUESTION 1:

We Need New Names uses the motif of journeying (transnationally) to explore the process of learning, and to posit the innocence of childhood as a form of resistance.

Discuss how the narrative point of view effectively conveys the circumstances that have shaped the identity of the novel's child narrator and her resistance to various conflicts in her life.

(100)

OR

QUESTION 2:

He is looking like a child, just lying there, unable to do anything, and then I'm wishing I were big and strong so I could scoop him up and rock him in my arms [...]. Then Stina reaches and takes Father's hand and starts moving it to the song, and Bastard moves the other hand. I reach out and touch him too because I have never really touched him ever since he came and this is what I must do now because how will it look when everybody is touching him and I'm not? [...] We all look at one another and smile because we are touching him, just touching him all over like he is a beautiful plaything we have just rescued from a rubbish bin in Budapest. He feels like dry wood in my hands, but there is a strange light in his sunken eyes, like he has swallowed the sun.

(Bulawayo, 2014: 102–103)

Using the passage above as your point of departure, discuss why the novel focuses on the child narrator's experiences to exemplify a need for empathy and an eminent sense of humanity. In the course of your essay, you should consider the following:

- i. the contrast between the scene where the children meet Darling's dying father and the scene where the NGO representatives interact with the children and what this contrast reveals about society.
- ii. what we can learn from childhood innocence and the kind of humanity that children represent.
- iii. why there is a need for empathy in a society plagued by political violence and the human rights violations that ensue as a result of this violence.

You can, of course, also refer to other scenes in the novel where the child narrator, Darling, observes the callousness and insensitivity with which the adults around her treat children and each other.

(100)

SECTION B: *Wrath of the Ancestors*, A. C. Jordan

QUESTION 3:

Jordan tells a tragic-fatalistic story about Zwelinzima, a missionary educated Xhosa prince, who reluctantly leaves university to take his rightful place as Chief of the Mpondomise. His inauguration fuels a clash of cultures and moralistic values between Mpondomise customs and beliefs against European civilisation and Christianity. Tragedy unfolds when Zwelinzima marries his childhood sweetheart, and advocates monogamy, refusing to honor his father's dying wish. The elder, Ngxabane, is emblematic of traditional reverence towards Mpondomise customs and strongly refutes European influence – so the disobedience of a royal ancestral wish wrought calamities upon Chief Zwelinzima, his family and ultimately the chieftdom. (Afrikult)

Discuss this paragraph on *Wrath of the Ancestors* in terms of the conflict between traditional and modern values in the novel.

(100)

OR

QUESTION 4:

In *Wrath of the Ancestors*, A.C. Jordan portrays the universals of human nature in terms of people's relationships and responses while also situating his novel firmly within the context of rural Xhosa life in the early twentieth century.

Discuss how Jordan humanizes both sides of the conflict between the school people and the ochre people in order to get his strong moral message across to his readers about how any conflict may be resolved.

(100)

END OF PAPER