



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

JULY SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2020

COURSE: ENGLISH 1A

TIME: 3 HOURS

COURSE CODE: ENG1A11 ENG1AA1

MARKS: 200

EXAMINERS: Dr T Tsehloane
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THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR (4) PAGES

Instructions:

1. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) OF THE THREE GIVEN QUESTIONS.
2. PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET
3. WRITE THE NUMBER OF THE QUESTION ON THE FRONT OF THE EXAM BOOKLET.

QUESTION 1: SHORT FICTION 1 – SHIRLEY JACKSON, “THE LOTTERY”

Carefully read the following three extracts:

- i) The children assembled first, of course. School was recently over for the summer, and the feeling of liberty sat uneasily on most of them; they tended to gather together quietly for a while before they broke into boisterous play, and their talk was still of the classroom and the teacher, of books and reprimands. Bobby Martin had already stuffed his pockets full of stones, and the other boys soon followed his example, selecting the smoothest and roundest stones; Bobby and Harry Jones and Dickie Delacroix – the villagers pronounced this name "Dellacroy" – eventually made a great pile of stones in one corner of the square and guarded it against the raids of the other boys. The girls stood aside, talking among themselves, looking over their shoulders at the boys, and the very small children rolled in the dust or clung to the hands of their older brothers or sisters (64).

- ii) The original paraphernalia for the lottery had been lost long ago, and the black box now resting on the stool had been put into use even before Old Man Warner, the oldest man in town, was born. Mr. Summers spoke frequently to the villagers about making a new box, but no one liked to upset even as much tradition as was represented by the black box. There was a story that the present box had been made with some pieces of the box that had preceded it, the one that had been constructed when the first people settled down to make a village here. Every year, after the lottery, Mr. Summers began talking again about a new box, but every year the subject was allowed to fade off without anything's being done. The black box grew shabbier each year; by now it was no longer completely black but splintered badly along one side to show the original wood color, and in some places faded or stained (65).

- iii) Although the villagers had forgotten the ritual and lost the original black box, they still remembered to use stones. The pile of stones the boys had made earlier was ready; there were stones on the ground with the blowing scraps of paper that had come out of the box. Mrs. Delacroix selected a stone so large she had to pick it up with both hands and turned to Mrs. Dunbar. "Come on," she said. "Hurry up." Mrs. Dunbar had small stones in both hands, and she said, gasping for breath, "I can't run at all. You'll have to go ahead and I'll catch up with you." The children had stones already. And someone gave little Davy Hutchinson a few pebbles (72).

With close reference to **all three extracts**, write a five-paragraph essay that discusses the symbols in each extract. In each instance, begin by discussing what the objects are symbolic of, in other words what they represent. Then discuss what the symbol suggests about tradition and human nature.

- Make sure that your introduction provides a statement regarding the main concern of the topic.
- Use the paragraph structure: topic sentence, supporting sentences that provide evidence as well as analysis and discussion of evidence, concluding sentence.

- You must use quotations from the given extracts to support your argument. You may also want to refer to and quote from other parts of the story, where relevant.
- All quotations must be correctly integrated and discussed. **(100)**

QUESTION 2: SHORT FICTION 2 – CAN THEMBA, “THE SUIT”

Carefully read the following two extracts:

- i) He wished this insane trip were over, and then again, he recoiled at the thought of getting home. He made a tremendous resolve to gather in all the torn, tingling threads of his nerves contorting in the raw. By a merciless act of will, he kept them in subjugation as he stepped out of the bus back in the Victoria Road terminus, Sophiatown. (39)
- ii) Both Philemon and Matilda dressed for the occasion. Matilda had to carry the suit on its hanger over her back and the three of them strolled leisurely along Ray Street. They passed the church crowd in front of the famous Anglican Mission of Christ the King. Though the worshippers saw nothing unusual in them, Matilda felt, searing through her, red-hot needles of embarrassment, and every needle-point was a public eye piercing into her degradation. (43)

With close reference to **both extracts**, write a five-paragraph essay in which you discuss the ways in which the **shifting narrative point of view** of Can Themba’s “The Suit” reveals how both Matilda’s infidelity and Philemon’s psychological punishment inflict pain, and how **their inability to resolve their conflict** causes the couple’s relationship to break down.

Your response must focus on the following elements:

- (1) plot,
 - (2) characterization, and
 - (3) shifting narrative point of view.
- You must use quotations from the given extracts to support your argument, as well as textual evidence from other parts of the story, where relevant.
 - Briefly contextualise the extracts when quoting from them, showing how they relate to events in the story.
 - All quotations must be correctly integrated and discussed.

(100)

QUESTION 3: LONG FICTION – NIQ MHLONGO, *AFTER TEARS*

I left Yomi's place deep in thought, but deep down I knew he had convinced me. I told myself that I had to do something to escape the perpetual misery of existence in the township. (135).

With close reference to the given extract, write a five-paragraph essay in which you discuss how Mhlongo's novel features a protagonist whose desire to escape the ghetto is thwarted by the harsh reality of the social environment.

- In the introductory paragraph, contextualise the extract by briefly explaining what happens just before, and just after, this scene.
- Be sure to state the main concern of the topic.
- You must use quotations from the given extract to support your argument, as well as textual evidence from other parts of the novel, where relevant.
- All quotations must be correctly integrated and discussed.

(100)

END OF PAPER