



**PAMIBIA UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION**

<b>QUALIFICATION: BACHELOR OF ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS (HONOURS)</b>	
<b>QUALIFICATION CODE: 08BAEN</b>	<b>LEVEL: 8</b>
<b>COURSE CODE: AOL811S</b>	<b>COURSE NAME: AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE</b>
<b>SESSION: JUNE 2022</b>	<b>PAPER: THEORY</b>
<b>DURATION: 3H00</b>	<b>MARKS: 100</b>

<b>FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER</b>	
<b>EXAMINER(S)</b>	<b>DR. ALETTA MWENENI HAUTEMO</b>
<b>MODERATOR:</b>	<b>DR. L. NAMASEB</b>
<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read all the questions carefully before answering.</li><li>2. Number the answers clearly</li><li>3. Give essay type responses where necessary</li><li>4. Use blue or black ink only</li></ol>	

**THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 5 PAGES** (Including this front page)

**1. MATCHING QUESTION**

**(7 marks)**

Link the following terms to their corresponding statement. Write down only the number of the question and the symbol (1) – (A).

A	Trickster Tales	1. Explains how something came to be and it usually explains something in nature	
B	Fables	2. Statements that contain superficial words, but they function figuratively and as metaphors, and are in the form of questions	
C	Fairy tales	3. Causes problems for the other characters	
D	Myths	4. Often contain a quest, romance, and adventure	
E	Proverb	5. Deal with human relationships with the gods, gods' relationships with each other and human struggle with good and evil.	
G	Riddle	6. Animal characters with human characteristics.	
H	Pourquoi Stories	7. express broader truth, it often uses metaphors.	

**2. Discuss the difference between a legend and an epic story**

**(6 marks)**

**3. Put the name of the actantial function most clearly associated with the words before the parentheses. There is only one answer in each case. All six functions are represented.**

**(12 marks)**

Paul ( ) asks Mary ( ) to use her charm ( ) to obtain some information ( ) concealed by Peter ( ), and which Paul ( ) can sell at a high price.

**4. Read the following folktale and thereafter discuss the social functions of Oral narratives in the African culture and how they can be used to groom the young African. Illustrate with examples from the folktale below.**

**(25 marks)**

### The Tortoise with a Pretty Daughter

There was once a king who was very powerful. He had great influence over the wild beasts and animals. Now the tortoise was looked upon as the wisest of all beasts and men. This king had a son named Ekpenyon, to whom he gave fifty young girls as wives, but the prince did not like any of them. The king was very angry at this and made a law that if any man had a daughter who was finer than the prince's wives, and who found favour in his son's eyes, the girl herself and her father and mother should be killed. Now about this time the tortoise and his wife had a daughter who was very beautiful. The mother thought it was not safe to keep such a fine child, as the prince might fall in love with her, so she told her husband that her daughter ought to be killed and thrown away into the bush. The tortoise, however, was unwilling, and hid her until she was three years old. One day, when both the tortoise and his wife were away on their farm, the king's son happened to be hunting near their house, and saw a bird perched on the top of the fence round the house. The bird was watching the little girl and was so entranced with her beauty that he did not notice the prince coming. The prince shot the bird with his bow and arrow, and it dropped inside the fence, so the prince sent his servant to gather it. While the servant was looking for the bird, he came across the little girl, and was so struck with her form, that he immediately returned to his master and told him what he had seen. The prince then broke down the fence and found the child and fell in love with her at once. He stayed and talked with her for a long time, until at last she agreed to become his wife. He then went home but concealed from his father the fact that he had fallen in love with the beautiful daughter of the tortoise.

But the next morning he sent for the treasurer and got sixty pieces of cloth and three hundred rods and sent them to the tortoise. Then in the early afternoon he went down to the tortoise's house and told him that he wished to marry his daughter. The tortoise saw at once that what he had dreaded had come to pass, and that his life was in danger, so he told the prince that if the king knew, he would kill not only himself (the tortoise), but also his wife and daughter. The prince replied that he would be killed himself before he allowed the tortoise and his wife and daughter to be killed. Eventually, after much argument, the tortoise consented, and agreed to hand his daughter to the prince as his wife when she arrived at the proper age. Then the prince went home and told his mother what he had done. She was in great distress at the thought that she would lose her son, of whom she was very proud, as she knew that when the king heard of his son's disobedience, he would kill him. However, the queen, although she knew how angry her husband would be, wanted her son to marry the girl he had fallen in love with, so she went to the tortoise and gave him some money, clothes, yams, and palm-oil as further dowry on her son's behalf in order that the tortoise should not give his daughter to another man. For the next five years the prince was constantly with the tortoise's daughter, whose name was Adet, and when she was about to be put in the fattening house, the prince told his father that he was going to take Adet as his wife. On hearing this the king was very angry and sent word all round his kingdom that all people should come on a certain day to the marketplace to hear the palaver. When the appointed day arrived, the marketplace was quite full of people, and the stones belonging to the king and queen were placed in the middle of the market-place.

When the king and queen arrived all the people stood up and greeted them, and they then sat down on their stones. The king then told his attendants to bring the girl Adet before him. When she arrived, the king was quite astonished at her beauty. He then told the people that he had sent for them to tell them that he was angry with his son for disobeying him and taking Adet as his wife without his knowledge, but that now he had seen her himself he had to

acknowledge that she was very beautiful, and that his son had made a good choice. He would therefore forgive his son.

When the people saw the girl they agreed that she was very fine and quite worthy of being the prince's wife, and begged the king to cancel the law he had made altogether, and the king agreed; and as the law had been made under the "Egbo" law, he sent for eight Egbos, and told them that the order was cancelled throughout his kingdom, and that for the future no one would be killed who had a daughter more beautiful than the prince's wives, and gave the Egbos palm wine and money to remove the law, and sent them away. Then he declared that the tortoise's daughter, Adet, should marry his son, and he made them marry the same day. A great feast was then given which lasted for fifty days, and the king killed five cows and gave all the people plenty of foo-foo and palm-oil chop and placed a large number of pots of palm wine in the streets for the people to drink as they liked. The women brought a big play to the king's compound, and there was singing, and dancing kept up day and night during the whole time. The prince and his companions also played in the market square. When the feast was over the king gave half of his kingdom to the tortoise to rule over, and three hundred slaves to work on his farm. The prince also gave his father-in-law two hundred women and one hundred girls to work for him, so the tortoise became one of the richest men in the kingdom. The prince and his wife lived together for some good many years until the king died, when the prince ruled in his place. And all this shows that the tortoise is the wisest of all men and animals.

**5. Compare and contrast the structure, performance and social functions of proverbs and riddles in a culture of your own choice. Illustrate with examples. (25 marks)**

**6. Read the following poems and answer the question below: (25 marks)**

**Praise poems have several social functions. Analyse the three poems and show how they portray the four social functions listed below:**

- a. recording the stages of life
- b. entertainment and relaxation
- c. asserting interests and outlooks
- d. teaching ideals and conduct.

**1.**

Birth

Welcome, child, into the world!

May good fortune attend us.

Be wide awake in the morning

May good fortune attend us.

Be wide awake in the afternoon

May good fortune attend us.

But go to sleep in the evening

May good fortune attend us.

(Ogbalu 1974:31)

**2.**

Chant in praise of Sunjata by Gambian griot Bamba Suso:

Ah, mighty war king,

A man who likes making deserted villages,

Many great matters have passed from the world.

Ah, you have an army.

you seize, you slay.

Maambira Konnate, fighting goes well with you.

(Innes 1974:63)

**3.**

A song from the Kikuyu (Kenya)

On Friday as I was coming from work,

I was thinking I was being waited for to go and eat

but my heart was deceiving me \_\_\_\_ listen and you will hear.

When I got home there was nobody,

at her parents' home there was nobody.

I ran very, very fast to a nearby river----

and there my wife was talking to her lover.

I had thought getting married was good.

I sat and thought, and tears came out.

girls will never be trusted ever,

men are always to be trusted, always.

(Liyong 1972:132)