



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

QUALIFICATION: BACHELOR OF ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS QUALIFICATION CODE: 07BAEN	LEVEL: 6
COURSE CODE: TPP621S	COURSE NAME: THOERY AND PRACTICE OF WORLD POETRY 2B
SESSION: NOVEMBER 2023	PAPER: THEORY
DURATION: 3 HOURS	MARKS: 100
FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
EXAMINER	Ms. F.A. Strauss- Nghihalua
MODERATOR:	Professor: S. Krishnamurthy
INSTRUCTIONS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Answer ALL the questions.2. Write legibly and neatly.3. Number the answers clearly.4. Indicate whether you are a FM, PM or a DI student on the cover of your answer booklet.5. Up to 10% will be deducted for spelling and language errors.	

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

Read the following poem, *Once Upon a Time* by Gabriel Okara and analyse it by answering the questions that follow:

Once upon a time, son,
they used to laugh with their hearts
and laugh with their eyes:
but now they only laugh with their teeth,
while their ice-block-cold eyes
search behind my shadow.

There was a time indeed
they used to shake hands with their hearts:
but that's gone, son.
Now they shake hands without hearts
while their left hands search
my empty pockets.

'Feel at home!' 'Come again':
they say, and when I come
again and feel
at home, once, twice,
there will be no thrice-
for then I find doors shut on me.

So I have learned many things, son.
I have learned to wear many faces
like dresses – homeface,
officeface, streetface, hostface,
cocktailface, with all their conforming smiles
like a fixed portrait smile.

And I have learned too
to laugh with only my teeth
and shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye',
when I mean 'Good-riddance':
to say 'Glad to meet you',
without being glad; and to say 'It's been
nice talking to you', after being bored.

But believe me, son.
I want to be what I used to be
when I was like you. I want
to unlearn all these muting things.
Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

So show me, son,
how to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile
once upon a time when I was like you.

- a. Name the 3 poetic devices found in the poem and provide the examples 6
- b. What is the tone of *Once Upon a Time*? 4
- c. What is the structure of the poem? 4
- d. What is the main theme in the poem? 2
- e. Does the historical context of this poem make a difference to understanding it? 2
- f. What literary theory would be best to analyse the poem and why? 3
- g. What kind of person is the speaker in 'Once Upon a Time'? 2
- h. What is irony in 'Once Upon a Time'? 2

QUESTION 2

25

In "HARAMBEE SHACK," the poet uses vivid and metaphorical language to convey a sense of disillusionment and social injustice. Analyze the poem and discuss how the poetic devices contribute to the overall message of the poem.

HARAMBEE SHACK

*This evil service of the HaramBEE Shack
Is bloated and smells like the rotten feet
Of the colonial master, chosen by their god
Their breath smells like the stained armpits
Kept close during a quarter century of grabbing
Plundering and stealing, hiding and disbursing
Depleting the already limited capital resources
Taxed from the voters, the marginalized masses
Blinded by lies, promises, fed with hate, instigated
To march into the unknown, the ultimate poverty
Keep them hungry, Mr. President, starved
Tell them the mirage is after the elections.*

K.J. Molapong

QUESTION 3

25

Compare and contrast the two poems below; address how cultural backgrounds and life experiences shape the different perspectives?

To the children we call our future
Who have no shoes to put on their feet
Who have barely any food to eat
Who believe in some unreal hope
But still dare to dream
Wild and free.

Ama Nuamah

*Do not fear the past.
It is painful
but it is real
Blood was spilt and people died
but love and unity had survived.*

Zuhura Seng'enge

QUESTION 4

25

Discuss the concept of identity and self in the following poem by Hugh Ellis and analyse the poetic expressions of self-discovery.

I USED TO WANT

*I used to want to be black
But now it's okay to be red
You see, my great grandfathers were workers
They struggled as much as anyone else

I used to want to be black

And who can blame me?
My great grandfathers became colonialists
In order to fill their rotten stomachs*

*I used to want to be black
And you must hear my voice
'cause my grandfathers kept their mouths shut
Even though they disapproved*

*Now it's okay to be red
That's how independence came
My father wrote books about repression and liberation
But that's all his story , not mine*

*Now it's okay to be red
Namibian sunburn on my skin
I tried to learn all the languages and cultures
But I almost forgot my own*

*I used to want to be black
But now it's okay to be red
I hope my children , if and when they come
Won't have to fight these demons*

Hugh Ellis