

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL
CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

024

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 2:30 Hours

ANSWERS

Year: 2006

Instructions

1. This paper consists of sections A, B, C and D.
2. Answer **TWO (2)** questions from section A and **ONE (1)** question from each of sections B, C and D.
3. All questions carry 20 marks
4. Cellular phones are **not** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).

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1. Define oral literature and explain six ways it has contributed to preserving African traditions and values.

Oral literature refers to the verbal art forms and traditional knowledge passed down from one generation to another through spoken word rather than written texts. It includes folktales, proverbs, riddles, songs, legends, and myths.

Six ways oral literature has contributed to preserving African traditions and values:

It preserves history and origin stories by narrating the past through legends and myths, helping communities remember their beginnings.

It teaches morals and values by embedding lessons in stories, proverbs, and songs, such as the importance of honesty, respect, and hard work.

It promotes social unity through communal performances of songs, dances, and storytelling, strengthening relationships and collective identity.

It preserves languages and local dialects since oral literature is passed on in native tongues, helping maintain linguistic heritage.

It entertains while educating, providing leisure through stories and songs while teaching important life lessons.

It records traditional beliefs and customs, reflecting African worldviews about nature, ancestors, and the supernatural, keeping them alive for future generations.

2. Write short notes on the following literary concepts:

(a) Plot
Plot is the sequence of events that make up a story, showing how incidents are connected and how characters respond to challenges. It includes the introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

(b) Theme
Theme is the central message, idea, or issue explored in a literary work. It reflects what the writer wants to communicate about life, society, or human nature, such as love, betrayal, oppression, or freedom.

(c) Characterization
Characterization is the technique a writer uses to develop and present characters in a story, play, or poem. It can be direct, through descriptions, or indirect, through characters' actions, speech, and thoughts.

(d)

Imagery

Imagery refers to the use of descriptive language that appeals to the senses, helping readers create mental pictures. It makes experiences in a literary work vivid and memorable, using similes, metaphors, and personification.

(e)

Setting

Setting is the time and place in which a story occurs. It includes physical surroundings, social conditions, and historical background. The setting influences the plot, characters, and themes of a literary work.

3. Explain how literature serves as a mirror to society. Support your response with six points and appropriate illustrations.

Literature reflects society by highlighting its problems, beliefs, and practices. Six ways it acts as a mirror:

It exposes social injustices such as corruption and exploitation. In *The Trials of Brother Jero*, Soyinka mocks false prophets who deceive people for personal gain.

It reflects cultural traditions and customs. *Kinjeketile* by Ebrahim Hussein portrays African unity and the role of spiritual leaders in resisting colonial rule.

It portrays gender roles and challenges. In *The Lion and the Jewel*, Sidi represents a young woman caught between tradition and modernity.

It reveals political oppression and leadership abuses. *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* presents the struggle against colonial oppression and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters.

It teaches moral values. Oral literature and written works embed lessons about respect, loyalty, and hard work, seen in proverbs and folktales.

It preserves history and collective memory. *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* recounts the heroic deeds of ancient African leaders, keeping past glories alive.

4. Show how betrayal leads to the downfall of characters in two plays you have studied.

In *Kinjeketile*, betrayal by some African collaborators who side with colonialists leads to the collapse of the Maji Maji uprising. These traitors inform the Germans of the plan, causing the deaths of many and weakening the resistance.

In *The Barbed Wire*, characters betray their people's trust by cooperating with colonial powers. The betrayal results in divisions, arrests, and the suppression of the liberation movement, showing how treachery ruins both individuals and communities.

5. Plays often portray the oppression of the weak by the powerful. With reference to two plays you have read, discuss how the playwrights present this theme.

In *The Trials of Brother Jero*, the false prophet Jero exploits the poor and desperate people by pretending to offer spiritual solutions. His manipulation shows how religious leaders can use their influence to oppress the weak for personal gain.

In *The Government Inspector*, officials in a corrupt town oppress the poor through bribery, dishonesty, and negligence. The play portrays how those in authority abuse their positions, causing suffering and fear among the powerless.

6. Some characters in plays act as role models for society. Choose any two characters from two plays and explain what lessons society can learn from them.

Kinjeketile in *Kinjeketile* is a courageous leader who unites his people to resist colonial rule. Society can learn the importance of unity, patriotism, and sacrifice for the greater good.

Dedan Kimathi in *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* is portrayed as fearless, determined, and committed to freedom. His courage teaches society to resist oppression and fight for justice despite personal risks.

7. Discuss the importance of women characters in two novels you have read.

In *Houseboy* by Ferdinand Oyono, women play a significant role in exposing the social and racial injustices of colonial society. The character of the mistress of the French household represents the oppressive colonial power that exploits both African men and women. Meanwhile, other female characters symbolize traditional African values and the struggles women face in a patriarchal society. Women in this novel highlight the complexities of power, gender, and colonial oppression, making their roles essential to understanding the broader social context.

In *The Concubine* by Elechi Amadi, women are central to the novel's exploration of tradition, superstition, and fate. The protagonist Ihuoma is portrayed as a mysterious and beautiful woman whose presence influences the lives of those around her. She represents both the power and vulnerability of women in traditional societies. Through her character, the novel addresses themes of love, jealousy, and societal expectations of women, showing their importance in shaping cultural values and human relationships.

8. Writers often use literature to fight against injustice and discrimination. Use two novels to support this statement.

In *Girls at War* by Chinua Achebe, the novel portrays the impact of civil war on ordinary people in Nigeria, exposing ethnic tensions, political corruption, and social injustices. Achebe uses the experiences of his characters, especially the young soldiers and civilians, to criticize discrimination and the abuses of power.

during wartime. The novel highlights how injustice disrupts communities and destroys lives, urging readers to reflect on the consequences of division and prejudice.

In *Quartet* by Richard Rive, the novel deals with the apartheid system in South Africa, showing how racial discrimination affects the lives of black South Africans. Through the stories of four characters, Rive exposes the harsh realities of segregation, inequality, and oppression. The novel challenges the apartheid regime by revealing the resilience and dignity of those who resist injustice, thus using literature as a tool for social change and awareness.

9. Writers use language to create images and evoke emotions in readers. Explain how language is used effectively in two novels you have studied.

In *The Old Man and the Medal* by Ferdinand Oyono, the author uses simple yet powerful language to portray the dignity and tragedy of the old man, Meka. Through vivid descriptions and symbolic language, Oyono evokes sympathy and highlights the irony of colonial honors that mean little to the colonized individual. The language creates a strong emotional connection, making readers feel the old man's pride and pain.

In *A Walk in the Night and Other Stories* by Alex La Guma, the language is rich in imagery and mood, capturing the harsh realities of apartheid-era South Africa. La Guma uses descriptive language to paint vivid pictures of urban life, poverty, and despair, while also conveying hope and resistance. The careful choice of words and metaphors engages readers emotionally, making the social and political issues more immediate and impactful.

10. Identify and explain four functions of poetry in society, providing examples from two poems you have read.

Poetry serves several important functions in society.

First, it preserves culture and traditions by expressing shared values and history. For example, in traditional African poems, poets often celebrate cultural heroes or rituals, keeping the community's identity alive.

Second, poetry educates people by highlighting moral lessons or social issues. Poems that address themes like freedom or justice teach readers about these important concepts.

Third, poetry inspires and motivates people to take action or remain hopeful, as seen in poems that encourage resistance against oppression.

Fourth, poetry provides emotional expression and relief, allowing individuals and communities to express grief, joy, or hope, which fosters unity and healing.

11. Discuss how poets use poetic devices such as symbolism, imagery, and irony to express their feelings in two poems you have studied.

In the poem "Freedom Song," the poet uses repetition to emphasize the hope and certainty of freedom arriving, symbolizing a future of liberation and justice. The imagery of "tomorrow" evokes a sense of anticipation and renewal. The simplicity of language coupled with this repetition strengthens the emotional impact, conveying the collective longing for freedom.

In "If We Must Die" by Claude McKay, symbolism is used when comparing the oppressed to "hogs" and their oppressors to "mad and hungry dogs," which vividly portrays the brutality and dehumanization faced by the oppressed. The imagery of a "common foe" and "open grave" powerfully evokes the struggle and courage required in the face of death. Irony appears in the call to die nobly rather than like animals, highlighting the dignity and resilience despite oppression. These devices help express defiance and determination.

12. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow: Freedom Song

- (a) What type of poem is this?

The poem is a lyrical poem, expressing strong emotions and hope for freedom.

- (b) What is the tone of the poem?

The tone is hopeful, optimistic, and determined.

- (c) Who do you think is the speaker in the poem?

The speaker is likely a member of a community or society longing for freedom, possibly a collective voice of oppressed people.

- (d) What is the central theme of the poem?

The central theme is the anticipation and certainty of freedom and liberation.

- (e) How is the language used in the poem?

The language is simple, repetitive, and rhythmic, making the message clear and easy to remember, which enhances its emotional appeal.

- (f) What is the relevance of this poem to your society today?

The poem remains relevant as many societies still struggle with issues of freedom, equality, and justice. It inspires hope and the belief that change is coming.

- (g) Identify any two poetic devices used in the poem.

Repetition and rhyme are two poetic devices used.

(h) How does repetition help to deliver the poem's message?

Repetition reinforces the message of inevitable freedom, creating a powerful, memorable, and rhythmic effect that emphasizes hope and persistence.