Scott Christian UNIVERSITY

A Dynamic Centre of Academic Excellence

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

BACHALOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

FOR SEPTEMBER- DECEMBER SEMESTER 2022

COURSE CODE: LIT 410

COURSETITLE: MODERN AFRICAN POETRY

TIME: OCTOMBER 2022

Time: 2 hrs.

Instruction: Section A is compulsory, choose any other two questions from section B

SECTION A

1. Using specific examples explain the following terms as used in this course.
   a. Modern African Poetry (3marks)
   b. Persona (3marks)
   c. Poet (4marks)

2. Read the poem keenly and answer the questions that follow.

NIGHT SONG CITY

Dennis Brutus

Sleep well, my love, sleep well:

the harbor lights glaze over restless docks,

police cars cockroach through the tunnel streets;

from the shanties creaking iron-sheets

violence like a bug-infested rag is tossed

and fear is immanent* as sound in the wind-swung bell;

the long day's anger pants from sand and rocks;

but for this breathing night at least,

my land, my love, sleep well.

a. Using specific examples Critically analyse the poem **(4mks)**

b. I details discuss the subject matter brought out in this poem (6 mks)

c. Dennis Brutus has succeeded in employing powerful stylistic devices. With illustrations from the poem highlight and discuss any five from the poem above. (5 mks)

d. Paraphrase the above poem (5 mks)

SECTION B

1. a. Outline and discuss the four phases identified as to have constituted the emergence of Modern African Poetry (5marks)

b. Using a poem of your choice discuss the theme of poverty and economic disparities (5marks)

c. The Pioneering Phase 1930' s- 40's is depicted as a period of protests against Colonial exploitation, racial discrimination as well as agitations for political independence. Using a poem of your choice discuss the validity of the statement (5marks)

2. a. As Ngugi Wathiongo puts it: „Literature does not grow or develop in a vacuum; it is given impetus, shape, direction and even area of concern by the social, political and economic forces in a particular society. With this in mind discuss the relationship between creative literature and other forces that cannot be ignored especially in Africa, where modern literature has grown against the glory background of European imperialism and its changing manifestations: slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism. (10 marks)

b. Briefly discuss what you know about the contemporary phase or the millennium phase (postcolonial african literature) (5 marks)

3. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

AFRICAN THUNDERSTORM

David Rubadiri

From the west

Clouds come hurrying with the wind

Turning sharply

Here and there

Like a plague of locusts

Whirling,

Tossing up things on its tail

Like a madman chasing nothing.

Pregnant clouds

Ride stately on its back,

Gathering to perch on hills

Like sinister dark wings;

The wind whistles by

And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village

Screams of delighted children,

Toss and turn

In the din of the whirling wind,

Women,

Babies clinging on their backs

Dart about

In and out

Madly;

The wind whistles by

Whilst trees bend to let it pass.

Clothes wave like tattered flags

Flying off

To expose dangling breasts

As jagged blinding flashes

Rumble, tremble and crack

Amidst the smell of fired smoke

And the pelting march of the storm.

a. Briefly state what the above poem is all about (5 marks)

b. As a brilliant student of poetry discuss the major poetic devices employed David Rubadiri in the poem above (10 marks)