

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

ECL 320

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS
OCT- NOV 2024

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Time: 3 HOURS

Subject: ENGLISH 3

Marks: 100

This paper consists of 5 pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners

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Instructions on following page

Instructions: this paper is divided into three sections

Answer

1. **One** question from **Section A** (South African Literature)
and
2. **One** question from **Section B** (Modern to Contemporary Literature)
and
3. **All** questions from **Section C** (Linguistics)

PLEASE ANSWER SECTION C (LINGUISTICS) IN A SEPARATE EXAM ANSWER BOOK

SECTION A SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE

Write an essay on one of the following questions:

EITHER

Question A.1

Using Mtshali's poem as your point of departure, critically examine the Black Consciousness imperative of mental liberation in any three BC writings.

Oswald Mtshali, An Old Man in Church

I know an old man
Who during the week is a machine working at full throttle:
productivity would stall,
Spoil the master's high profit estimate,
if on Sunday he did not go to church
to recharge his spiritual batteries.
He never says his prayer in a velvet-cushioned pew
It would only be a whisper on God's ear.
He falls on raw knees
that smudge the bare floor with his piety.
He hits God's heart with screams as hard as stones
flung from the slingshot of his soul.
He takes the gilded communion plate with gnarled hands,
He lowers his eyes into the deep pond of serenity,
his brow rippling with devotion,
his ears enraptured by rustling silk vestments of the priest.
He drinks the Lord's blood from a golden chalice
With cracked lips thirsty for peace.
The acolyte comes around with a brass-coated collection plate
The old man sneaks in a cent piece
That raises a scowl on the collector's face
whose puckered nose sneezes at such poor generosity
instead of inhaling the aromatic incense smoke.
When the preacher stands up in the pulpit,
his voice fiery with holy fervour:
'Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.'

OR

Question A.2 (*see following page*)

OR

Question A.2

The ethos of traditional society was enshrined in oral, legal, religious and literary tradition through which the community transmitted from generation to generation its customs, values and norms. The poet and the story-teller stood at the centre of this tradition, as the community's chroniclers, entertainers, and collective conscience (Mzamane).

With reference to the quote above, write an incisive account of "The Open Air," showing the extent to which it figuratively sums up Mpe's preoccupations in "Brooding Clouds" and *Welcome to Our Hillbrow*.

SECTION B MODERN TO CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Answer one of the questions in this section.

EITHER

Question B.1 George Orwell, 1984

Write an essay analysing Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in which you address the following:

- a) the geopolitics of the world depicted in the novel
- b) the ways in which the Party maintains power
- c) the strengths and weaknesses of Winston's attempt to resist the Party
- d) the relevance of the novel to our contemporary world

OR

Question B.2

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (see following page)

OR

Question B.2

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

'Anything approaching the change that came over his features I have never seen before, and hope never to see again. Oh, I wasn't touched. I was fascinated. It was as though a veil had been rent. I saw on that ivory face the expression of sombre pride, of ruthless power, of craven terror – of an intense and hopeless despair. Did he live his life again in every detail of desire, temptation and surrender during that supreme moment of complete knowledge? He cried in a whisper at some image, at some vision – he cried out twice, a cry that was no more than a breath – "The horror! The horror!"
'I blew the candle out and left the cabin.'

It seems that Kurtz in his last moments of life finally realises what a disaster his life's work has become. In view of this, can Kurtz be seen as a symbol of the colonisation and modernisation of Africa? What would this mean for Marlow's vision of the colonial project?

SECTION C LINGUISTICS

NB: PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION C IN A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK

Answer all of the following questions.

1. Discuss the following with reference to discourse and speech act theory. Adequate exemplification is required.

- (a) Utterance (10 marks)
- (b) Illocutionary act (10 marks)
- (c) Perlocutionary act (10 marks)

2. Discuss the felicity conditions required for the following speech acts to be successful. Your discussion should include relevant contextual information related to South African culture.

- (a) Formalizing a traditional marriage (10 marks)
- (b) Baptism (10 marks)

Total: 50 marks x 2 = 100%

TOTAL: 100

