

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

**THE AFRICAN DIASPORA
ECL 508**

ENGLISH HONOURS

NOVEMBER

2018

OPEN BOOK (PRESCRIBED TEXTS)

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Time: FOUR HOURS

Subject: ECL508

Marks: 100

This paper consists of 2 pages including the cover page

**Internal Examiners
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**External Examiners
PROF C. SANDWITH**

**INSTRUCTIONS
ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS**

QUESTION 1.

‘Prince’s *History* fails to make a persuasive case against slavery because of Mary’s evasions. Pringle’s interventions do not help either.’

Critically evaluate this claim in the course of a detailed analysis of *The History of Mary Prince*.

QUESTION 2.

My Bondage and My Freedom is concerned with the meaning of slavery, primarily its psychological aspect, and the nature of the desire for freedom.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of Douglass’s text? You may refer to Booker T. Washington’s *Up from Slavery* to support your argument.

QUESTION 3.

‘The weakness of *Benito Cereno* is that it fails to present events from the perspective of the slaves. Melville has no sympathy for the slaves.’

Discuss this judgment by way of a detailed analysis of Melville’s text.

QUESTION 4.

‘*Invisible Man* depicts a problem so specifically American that it is of little use in understanding racism in other contexts.’

Explore this claim with detailed reference to Ellison’s text.

QUESTION 5.

‘Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* wholeheartedly endorses colonialism. Césaire’s *A Tempest* provides an unequivocal anti-colonial alternative.’

Discuss.

QUESTION 6.

‘For Africans of the diaspora Africa is a distant symbol that has little relevance to their identities.’

Discuss.

TOTAL MARKS 100