

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

ENGLISH STUDIES AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
ECL 120

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JANUARY

YEAR: 2025

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Time: 3 Hours

Subject: ECL 120

Marks: 100

This paper consists of 5 pages including the
cover page

Internal Examiners:

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Instructions:

Answer **any TWO** Questions in Section **A**, **ONE** in Section **B**, and another **ONE** in Section **C**.

SECTION A: LINGUISTICS [100]

Question 1

50 Marks

Discuss the semantics branch of linguistics.

Question 2

50 Marks

Each of the following words has a **denotative** and **connotative** meaning. Identify which meaning it is. If it is a connotative meaning, state whether it is a positive or negative connotation.

1. **home**

- a) where a person lives
- b) a familiar, comfortable, and cozy environment

2. **dog**

- a) a worthless or unattractive person
- b) a mammal that is often kept as a pet

3. **innocent**

- a) inexperienced; unsophisticated
- b) free from guilt; harmless

4. **greasy**

- a) covered with oil
- b) slimy or self-serving

5. **snake**

- a) a limbless reptile covered with scales
- b) an evil person

Question 3

Discuss articulatory phonetics in terms of place of articulation and manner of articulation.

50 Marks

SECTION B: FICTION [100]

Question 4: Chinua Achebe and Phaswane Mpe

The missionaries spent their first four or five nights in the market place, and went into the village in the morning to preach the gospel. They asked who the king of the village was, but the villagers told them there was no king. "We have men of high title and the chief priests and the elders...."

Write an incisive account of Achebe's and Mpe's representations of the colonial and postcolonial eras in Africa.

Question 5:

Comment on the appropriateness of Themba's and Wanner's titles, "The Suit" and "The Dress that Fed The Suit," respectively.

SECTION C: POETRY [100]

Question 6

Analyse the following poem, showing how the poet uses unexpected images and symbols to highlight social injustice.

A Lost Coin.

It lies shimmering on the pavement
like a drop of molten lead.

5 Pedestrians
blind like bats in the sunshine
flit past.

10 An urchin
rummaging for cigarette stubs
scoops it up,
and rushes to a Greek cafe --
bread for life?
sweet for joy? --
a chocolate slab
of Happiness
to be swallowed in a gulp
15 into an empty tummy,
and come out as sweet nothingness
in an alley toilet.

Question 7

Discuss the ways in which this poem represents Roddy McCorley as a popular hero deserving to be remembered.

Roddy M'Corley (~1798, Irish rebel song)

Oh see the fleet-foot hosts of men,
Who speed with faces wan
From farmstead and from thresher's cot,
Along the banks of Ban.
5 They come with vengeance in their eyes,
Too late, too late are they,
For young Roddy M'Corley goes to die
On the Bridge of Toome today.

Up the narrow street he stepped,

10 Smiling proud and young;
About the hemp-rope on his neck
The golden ringlets clung.
There's never a tear in his blue eyes,
Both glad and bright are they
15 As young Roddy M'Corley goes to die
On the Bridge of Toome today.

When he last stepped up that street
His shining pike in hand,
Behind him marched in grim array
20 A stalwart earnest band!
For Antrim Town! for Antrim Town!
He led them to the fray
As young Roddy M'Corley goes to die
On the Bridge of Toome today.

25 There's never a one of all your dead
More bravely fell in fray,
Than he who marches to his fate
On the Bridge of Toome today.
True to the last, true to the last,
30 He treads the upward way
And young Roddy M'Corley goes to die
On the Bridge of Toome today.

[END]

