

**ENG2603**

October/November 2016

**COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL  
AFRICAN LITERATURES**

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

**EXAMINERS**

FIRST  
SECOND

DR R D'ABDON  
PROF S MAITHUFI

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PROF J MURRAY

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**Closed book examination**

**This examination question paper remains the property of the University of South Africa and may not be removed from the examination venue**

This examination question paper consists of 4 pages

The examination paper is composed of two sections **Section A** and **Section B**. Each section will contain **two questions**. You must answer **ONE question from SECTION A** and **ONE question from SECTION B**. You may **NOT** answer two questions from the same section. Please be clear on this matter. **ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION. EACH QUESTION AMOUNTS TO 50 MARKS**

**[TURN OVER]**

**SECTION A**

You must answer **ONE** question from this section

**Question 1: Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun***

Read the statement below and answer the question that follows

“Although the dreams of the Younger family revolve and crystallize around the 10 000 dollars check, the irony is that its arrival seems to have deepened the conflicts and divisions among them (the family members)”

Write an essay in which you critically explore how Mama Younger attempts to resolve conflicts in her family

[50 Marks]

**Question 2: Fred Khumalo, *Seven Steps to Heaven***

Using the following quotation as your starting point, write an essay in which you discuss the role of Nolitha in highlighting Sizwe’s complex sexual identity

“To Patrick, contact triggered a sexual response, it evoked cinematic flashes of other bodies he’d embraced, eyes he’d looked into, lips he’d marvelled at. When he caressed Sizwe’s face, the latter didn’t recoil. Soon they were kissing, and later moved into bed.

Much later, Sizwe lay on his back staring at the ceiling. He was waiting for the feeling of strangeness, of disgust, to engulf him. A century later, the feeling hadn’t even quivered on the horizon. What did come to his mind was the time he and Thulani had had sex with Nolitha in the bush. Done with her, the two boys had walked home hand in hand. From his perspective, Sizwe had never felt closer to Thulani than that day. In fact he had felt so close to his friend it felt he was him. He squeezed his hand until Thulani faked a vicious cough, which gave him an excuse to release his hand from Sizwe’s firm grasp”

(Khumalo, F. 2007. Auckland Park Jacana pp. 152 – 3)

[50 Marks]

**TOTAL SECTION A: 50**

**SECTION B**You must answer **ONE** question from this section**Question 3: Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions***

*Nervous Conditions* focuses on Tambu's growing maturity and insights into the characters she encounters. Write an essay in which you discuss the development of her insights into Babamukuru's character, and the ways in which this knowledge re-shapes her relationship with him.

[50 Marks]

**Question 4: Michael Chapman, *The New Century of South African Poetry***

The hymn, "Ntsikana's Bell", conceived to be performed in public spaces in front of an audience, was composed by Ntsikana kaGabha, a Xhosa convert to Christianity. By focusing on the text, write an essay in which you discuss the interface between African culture and Christianity, as well as the linguistic and formal patterns employed by the poet to call his people to action against the colonizers.

**"Ntsikana's Bell"****Ntsikana kaGabha**

Sele! Sele!

Ahom, ahom, ahom!

Sele! Sele! Come, hear the Word of the Lord

Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom.

[call to worship]

[bell sound by striking a rock]

Respond! Respond! You are called to heaven

Come, all you multitudes! Come, all you children!

Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom

It has been fenced in and surrounded, this land of your fathers

He who responds to the call will be blessed

Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom

Sele! Sele!  
Ahom, ahom, ahom!  
Respond! Respond! You are called to heaven  
Ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom, ahom

(tr. isiXhosa J.K. Bokwe)

kaGabha, N "Ntsikana's Bell", in *The New Century of South African Poetry* 2002 Chapman, M (ed )  
Johannesburg and Cape Town AD Jonker p 33)

[50 Marks]

**TOTAL SECTION B: 50**

**Final Total Mark: 100**