

Third Semester M.A. Degree Examination
English Language and Literature
(from 2022 admission onwards)
Model Question Paper
Paper IX: EL.531 – World Literatures II

Time: 3 hours

Max marks: 75

I. Answer any five of the following questions in about 50 words

1. How are women victims of war depicted in *Cliff*?
2. Comment on the three kisses in Paulma's story.
3. How does football become a unifying force in Latin America?
4. Who were *payadores*?
5. What does Rita Joe mean when she says she 'lost her talk'?
6. Comment on the role of Nanabush in "The Rez Sisters".
7. What does rice represent in Yuan Qiongqiong's story?
8. How is racial discrimination depicted in 'Colonial Girl's School'?

(5x2 = 10 marks)

II. Answer any five of the following questions in about 100 words.

9. Discuss Braithwaite's 'Bermudas' as a record of the history of South Africa.
10. Comment on family relationships and filial duty as portrayed in *Please Look after Mom*.
11. How does Mistral use symbolism to depict her anguish in 'God Wills It'?
12. Examine "Fathers and Sons" as a typical representation of 'Hemingway Style'.
13. How does Murakami blend the surreal with the everyday in his writing?
14. Discuss *Orchestra of Minorities* as a reflection of Igbo cosmological belief system.
15. Comment on Scott's lampooning of his fellow poets in The Canadian Authors Meet.
16. How do the three storylines converge in American Born Chinese?

(5x5 = 25 marks)

III. Answer any two of the following questions in about 300 words choosing one from each group.

Group A

17. Attempt a Postcolonial feminist reading of Ata Ama Aidoo's *Anowa*
18. How do the stories of the Monkey King represent ideas of identity, selfhood and transformation?
19. "A reality not of paper, but one that lives within us". How does Marquez's speech encompass the literary and social reality of Latin America?

Group B

20. How does the literature of Indigenous Canadian writers exemplify the impact of colonisation and the attempt to reclaim their cultural heritage?
21. Comment on the attitudes of the narrators in *Sightseeing* and *The Taximan's Story* towards the changes that they observe in the society around them.
22. How does *Twelve Years a Slave* depict the dehumanizing effects of slavery and the importance of individual agency in the quest for freedom?

(15x 2 = 30 marks)

IV. Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words.

23. Present the main arguments in the given passage in not more than two sentences and attempt a one page critical note on the passage:

She woke in the middle of the night to cook rice.

Couldn't sleep. She was lying on the bed, eyes closed, but she hadn't the slightest sensation of sleepiness.

He slept quite well beside her. When you are insomniac, the person slumbering next to you is like a curse. She rolled over, got up, and sat at the edge of the bed. Then she lay back down, and rolled over. He was completely insensible. In life not only are birth and death solitary, but so is sleep, and even insomnia.

Then she decided to get up and cook rice. Why cook rice, she wasn't even really sure. Anyhow she just felt she should get up and cook a pot of rice.

24. "The Westerner's safari Africa is a subtextual suggestion in the shadow of the main text, which deals with the African's real Africa: the starving children of war, their raped and murdered mothers, and their dead or dying fathers. But it is not as simple as a mere contrast of images. The modern safari Africa is the heir to a destructive colonialism that convulsed an earlier, preindustrial Africa and slowly turned it into a state of colonial dependence. A further conjugation is that, whereas the colonial adventurers of Africa severely damaged the fabric of social and cultural life systems in their artificially constituted states, the neocolonial African

governments, in reaction and working within the gutted remains of the colonial infrastructure, imposed destructive nationalisms on impoverished people and bred new conflicts, new corruptions, and new wars. The characters in this story are the victims of this double colonization, and in their effort to escape they have to traverse, in a literal, historical, and metaphorical return journey, to the source of their condition, a prime terrain of land appropriation, the game park. They return as a colonial and apartheid nemesis, that is, as refugees, to the center of stolen power and wealth—white South Africa.” Do you agree/disagree with this statement? Briefly present your arguments.

25. What are your views on the dominating themes of slavery, resistance and post-colonial thought in the African and Caribbean geo-political spheres?

(10x 1 = 10 marks)