

Third Semester M.A. Degree Examination
English Language and Literature (2022 admission onwards)
Model Question Paper
Paper XII: Choice 2
EL 534.2: African and Caribbean Literature

Time: 3 hours

Marks: 75

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

1. Define colonialism.
2. What is oral literature?
3. Comment on the title, "Songs of Sorrow."
4. What is the central metaphor in "Vultures"?
5. What is the most notable feature of Achebe's prose style?
6. Briefly describe how Kincaid critiques the Antiguan government.
7. Explain how Thiong'o links language with culture.
8. How does Fanon theorise his black identity?

(5x2 = 10 marks)

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

9. Analyse how Spivak modulates her arguments in "Can the Subaltern Speak?"
10. Explain how William explores the various facets of colonial discourse.
11. Critically comment on Senghor's creation of a new beauty ideal in "Black Woman."
12. Elaborate on how the ideals of negritude movement are mirrored in "Africa" and "Vultures."
13. Trace how Thiong'o delineates the manifold ways in which language became a tool of ideological oppression.
14. Describe how Mandela's resistance becomes a potent discourse that challenges the idea of white supremacy.
15. Examine the politics of identity foregrounded by Naipaul in *A House for Mr. Biswas*.

16. Analyse how Brathwaite brings out the diverse levels of signification in the term, nation language.

(5x5 =25 marks)

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

Group A

17. Critically examine the historical ramifications of African colonialism and its impact on the postcolonial African psyche.

18. How will you evaluate Spivak's ideological positioning in her dialogue on the subaltern?

19. Comment on the political and historical contexts that are required for an understanding of "colonial discourse" and its aftermath.

Group B

20. Analyse how Soyinka positions the female characters in the context of patriarchal aggression in *Death and the King's Horseman*.

21. African poetry poignantly reflects the anger and anguish inherent in the trauma of the colonial enterprise. Elucidate with special reference to the poems prescribed for study.

22. Describe how Achebe draws out the nuances of the clash between two diametrically opposite world orders through his novel, *Things Fall Apart*.

(2x15 = 30 marks)

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

23. Examine the politics of blackness and its societal positioning as revealed in Fanon's work.

24. Attempt a critique of the ideological colonisation that is revealed through the essay, "Decolonising the Mind."

25. Explain how Brathwaite brings out the plurality of language through his work.

(1x10 = 10 marks)