

SCOBA
S.4 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

INSTRUCTIONS: Attempt all numbers

1. Read the following extract from the novel, *The Alien Woman* and answer the questions that follow.

ALIEN WOMAN

‘Too much worry will distort your mind James,’ Margaret told him with sympathetic appeal.

‘But one cannot help thinking about it,’ Opito said.

‘True,’ Margaret said, ‘but I am almost well again. I will certainly improve even further. Don’t give it a thought.’

‘I will make sure I hunt for this witch,’ Opito swore.

‘She should be ruthlessly punished,’ Obina endorsed.

‘But she is not to blame,’ Margaret intervened.

‘Not to blame! Who else did it?’ Obina and Opito asked simultaneously, showing an attitude of vengeance.

‘I was to blame,’ Margaret said in a low voice. Opito and Obina looked at each other confusedly.

‘What do you mean?’ Opito asked.

‘I intruded into a traditional betrothal.’ She put it with a sense of guilt.

‘Nothing,’ Opito said. ‘We shall now fight gallantly on your side and see that your marriage succeeds.’

‘But I don’t want it forced,’ Margaret said. ‘Formal courtship needs the blessings of the elders. Without it most marriages become futile’.

The way I see things now,’ Obina said, ‘although I have not yet talked anything with them, I am almost sure of their approval. They seem to have changed a lot during my absence.’

‘James,’ Margaret called softly.

‘Yes, please.’

‘I want you to do me one favor.’

‘What is it my dear, you only have to ask and I will do it.’

‘I want you and Fred and everybody to forgive that woman, I mean the one who burnt me.’ Her scar had left on him a strong impact. He felt it in the heart and nothing like a thunderbolt could now free him.

Questions:

- a) What comes before the above extract?

(05 mks)

- b) What comes immediately after the above extract? (05 mks)
c) Basing on the above extract, describe Nagawa's character. (10 mks)
2. Discuss the theme of revenge with clear examples from the play, *Betrayal in the City* By Francis Imbuga
 3. What is actions are kafirans doing in order to bring down the dictatorship they are facing?
 4. How relevant is the play, *Betrayal in the City* to the contemporary society?

A Cowrie of Hope by Binwell Sinyangwe

5. Explain the theme of poverty in the novel, *A Cowrie of Hope*.
 6. In what ways is Sula portrayed as a cowrie of hope in the novel, *A Cowrie of Hope*?
 7. What lessons do you learn from the novel, *A Cowrie of Hope*.
8. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow

LETTER FROM A CONTRACT WORKER

I wanted to write you a letter
my love,
a letter that would tell
of this desire
to see you
of this fear
of losing you
of this more than benevolence that I feel
of this indefinable ill that pursues me
of this yearning to which I live in total surrender....

I wanted to write you a letter
my love
a letter of intimate secrets,
a letter of memories of you,
of you
of your lips as red as henna
of your hair as black as mud
of your eyes as sweet as honey

of your breasts as hard as wild orange
or your lynx gait.
and of your caresses
such that I can find no better here.

I wanted to write you a letter
my love
that would recall the days in our haunts
our nights lost in the long grass
that would recall the shade falling on us from the palm trees
the moon filtering through the endless palm trees that would recall
the madness
of our passion
and the bitterness
of our separation ...

I wanted to write you a letter

my love
that you would read without sighing
that you would hide from papa Bombo
that you would withhold from mama Kieza
that you would reread without the coldness of forgetting
a letter to which in all Kilombo
no other would stand comparison

I wanted to write a letter
my love
a letter that would be brought to you by the passing wind
a letter that the cashews and coffee trees
the hyenas and buffaloes
the alligators and grayling*
could understand
so that if the wind should lose it on the way
the beasts and plants
with pity for our sharp suffering
from song to song
lament to lament

gabble to gabble
would bring you pure and hot
the burning words
the sorrowful words of the letter
I wanted to write to you my love
I wanted to write you a letter
But oh my love, I cannot understand
why it is, why it is my dear,
that you cannot read
and I – oh the hopelessness! – cannot write.

Antonio Jacinto

Questions.

- a) What is the poem all about? (05 mks)
- b) Do you find the poem interesting? Why? (10 mks)
- c) Who is the speaker? (4 mks)
- d) What feelings does the above poem evoke in you? (05 mks)

END