

FEBRUARY 2020
EBS 121
STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY
2 HOURS

Candidate's Index Number:

Signature:

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDIES
SCHOOL OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

COLLEGES OF EDUCATION
FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (B.ED)
FIRST YEAR, END-OF-FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION, FEBRUARY, 2020

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

This paper consists of two sections, A and B. Answer all the questions in Section A and ONE question from Section B.

SECTION A
[30 MARKS]

1. How does the content of the poems make the term 'African poetry' appropriate? [2 marks]
2. State two distinctive characteristics of an African traditional poetry from African poetry. [2 marks]
3. What aspect of the African culture is portrayed in "Owusu"? [2 marks]
4. In "Fulani Creation Story," what sin got Doondari to keep on creating? [2 marks]
5. What is the symbolic meaning of the two rams in "Sundjata"? [2 marks]

Read the excerpt below and answer questions 6-8

Their lustre gave the illusion of pearls
As shorewards they shoved up mighty canoes
And looked like the carcass of drifting whales
(Dipoko's "Our History to Precolonial Africa")

6. What figure of speech is used in the above excerpt? [1 mark]
7. In two sentences, explain the excerpt above. [3 marks]
8. What is the attitude of the persona towards the object of discussion in the poem? [1 mark]

Read the excerpt below to answer questions 9 and 10

The sun slanting through cracks
welcomes the owner
(Neto: “Western Civilization”)

9. Identify the literary devices used in the excerpt. [2 marks]
10. Explain the above as an enjambment. [2 marks]
11. In **two** sentences, compare the roles of PS and the persona in Barlow’s “Building the Nation.” [3 marks]
12. What approach of presentation is used in Aidoo’s “Where the Bead Speaks”? [1 mark]

Beads are the zeze of our joyous trails,
the ziz of life when all else fails.
Beads are zany, zesty, zingy,
the greatest zaiku, a grief zapper.

13. What is the main effect of the highlighted words on the stanza above? [3 marks]

Read the excerpt to answer questions 14 and 15

... we can laugh beauty into life
and still make you taste
the salt tears of our knowledge
(Busia: “Liberation”)

14. In **two** sentences, explain the excerpt above. [2 marks]
15. What irony is shown of mothers in the above excerpt? [2 marks]

**SECTION B
[30 MARKS]**

Answer ONE question from this Section.

1. Citing examples from “Fulani Creation Story”, discuss the traditional belief in how man was created and the expectation of how he should live.
2. With close reference to two poems you have studied in this course,
a. discuss **two** effects of colonialization on Africa.
b. examine **one** effect of the approach the poet uses in discussing the issues.

3. Read Barlow's "Building the Nation" and discuss how the persona portrays the builders in the poem.

Today I did my share
In building the nation.
I drove the permanent secretary
To an important urgent function
In fact to a luncheon at the Vic.

The menu reflected its importance
Cold Bell beer with small talk,
Then fried chicken with niceties
Wine to fill the hollowness of the laughs
Ice-cream to cover the stereotype jokes
Coffee to keep the PS awake on return journey.

I drove the permanent secretary back.
He yawned many times in the back of the car
Then to keep awake, he suddenly asked,
Did you have any lunch friend?
I replied looking straight ahead
And secretly smiling at his belated concern
That I had not, but was sliming!
Upon which he said with a seriousness
That amused more than annoyed me,
Mwananchi, I too had none!

I attended to matters of state.
Highly delicate diplomatic duties you know,
And friend, it goes against my grain,
Causes me stomach ulcers and wind.
Ah, he continued, yawning again,
The pains we suffer in building the nation!
So the PS had ulcers too!
My ulcers I think are equally painful
Only they are caused by hunger,
Not sumptuous lunches!

So two nation builders
Arrived home this evening
With terrible stomach pains
The result of building the nation – in different ways.

