

PROSE FICTION

EBS 158SW

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

One-Year (Three-Semester)

*Post-Diploma Top-up Programme,
First Semester*

BY: THOMAS AMPOMAH

SECTION A

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO PROSE FICTION

1. In a sentence, define prose fiction.

Answer: *Prose fiction is a literary genre that is purely imaginative and presented in everyday language in a narrative.*

2. What is the relationship between the novel and prose?

Answer: *The novel is a type of fictional prose which is narrated in everyday language.*

3. Explain the relevance of the climax stage of the plot.

Answer: *The climax marks the peak of the conflict in a piece of literary work.*

4. Differentiate between a hero and a protagonist in a story.

Answer: *A hero is the character whose change in fortune attracts the audience or readers' pity and fear whereas a protagonist is the leading character who the story revolves around.*

5. What is characterization in fiction?

Answer: *Characterization is the means by which characters are presented in a piece of literary work.*

6. State **two** ways by which a character is revealed in fiction.

Answer: *i) A character is revealed through what they say. ii) A character is known by what the writer says about him.*

7. Explain the concept setting as an element of prose fiction.

Answer: *Setting refers to the place and time in which the events in a story occurs.*

8. Mention the **two** basic types of setting in prose fiction.

Answer: *Physical/Geographical (place) and historical settings (time)*

9. State **two** reasons why a writer uses the third person point of view.

Answer: *i) The third person point of view is employed by writers to present the incidents in the story in a neutral and objective way. ii) To prevent subjectivity in the story. iii) To give extra textual information.*

10. What is fiction in literature?

Answer: *Fiction in literature refers to an artistic piece of work which is imaginative or non-factual.*

11. List three types of characters that can be present in a novel.

Answer: *Flat, Round, Dynamic, Stock*

12. What is plot in a literary work?

Answer: *The plot is the sequence of events in a story with causes and effect.*

13. Explain the relevance of the exposition stage of the plot.

Answer: *The exposition stage is first stage of the plot which reveal characters, conflict and provide important information about the story.*

14. Identify and explain the two basic types of plot.

Answer: *i) The simple plot refers to the type of plot which presents the incidents in a simple straightforward manner. ii) The complex plot presents the incidents in a more complicated manner.*

15. Mention the two aspect of setting of a literary text.

Answer: *Time and place revealed in the text.*

16. Define prose to your pupils.

Answer: *Prose refers to any form of written or oral expression presented in a straightforward manner and has no regular rhythmic pattern.*

17. The term prose is derived from the Latin word 'prosa' which means

Answer: "Straight-forward"

18. State two characteristics of prose.

Answer: (i) *It has a simple and loosely defined structure.* (ii) *It is mostly not presented in any particular or special structure.* (iii) *It has a logical arrangement of ideas and style.*

19. What does the term 'fictus' as used to in Latin to refer to fiction means?

Answer: 'Fictus' means 'created' or 'to form'.

20. Explain two of the characteristics of fiction.

Answer: (i) *Fiction deals with events which are not factual or real.* (ii) *It is created from the artist's/writer's imagination/ It is purely imaginative or invented stories by writers.*

21. Give three examples of non-fiction.

Answer: *autobiography, biography, history, letters, newspapers*

22. Explain two characteristics of non-fiction.

Answer: (i) *It is based on facts or real life stories.* (ii) *It has a true setting and real people as characters.*

23. What are the characteristics of prose fiction?

Answer: (i) *Prose fiction is a fictional work composed in a simple everyday narrative language.* (ii) *Prose fiction is an artistic composition which is imaginative.* (iii) *Prose fiction is a piece of literary work which reflects life.*

24. What distinguishes prose fiction from drama?

Answer: *Prose fiction is presented in a narrative form whereas drama is presented in dialogue or conversational language.*

25. How is prose fiction different from other forms of prose?

Answer: *Prose fiction differs from other forms of prose because of its artistry, imaginative nature and its ability to mirror the totality of life.*

26. What are the three main types of prose fiction?

Answer: *Novel, novella, short stories*

27. What is a novel?

Answer: *A novel is an extended fictional prose narrative presenting the picture of real life and having elements which can be analysed.*

28. What is a novella?

Answer: *A novella is a miniature or short novel which has all the elements of a novel.*

29. State and explain the types of plot in prose fiction.

Answer: *(i) Simple plot presents the incidents in a simple straight forward manner. (ii) Complex plot is presented in a more complicated and disjointed manner.*

30. Differentiate between the novel and the novella.

Answer: *A novella has generally fewer conflicts than the novel.*

31. What is the relationship between the novel and the prose?

Answer: *The novel is a fictitious narrative presented in prose.*

32. Can an autobiography be considered fictional? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: *An autobiography is not fictional because it is a factual or a true story of a person's life written by himself.*

33. What are the parts of the basic plot structure?

Answer: *Exposition, climax and denouement (resolution)*

34. Explain the term 'complication' in the plot structure?

Answer: *Complication refers to the appearance of circumstance or event that stirs up the stable situation presented in the exposition.*

35. What are the two types of the complication in the plot structure?

Answer: *External and internal*

36. What heightens the complication in a story's plot?

Answer: *The conflict between the characters*

37. What is the difference between the rising action and the falling action in the plot?

Answer: *The rising action is the point at which the tension begins to pile up whereas the falling action is the point where the built-up tension is released.*

38. The stage of the story where the tension reaches its peak is referred to as.....

Answer: *Climax*

39. Explain the denouement in a plot structure of prose fiction.

Answer: *The denouement is the final part of the plot structure where all the tension calm down and the conflicts resolved.*

40. Explain the two basic types of plot.

Answer: *(i) Simple plot presents the incidents in a simple straight forward manner. (ii) Complex plot is presented in a more complicated and disjointed manner.*

41. Explain style as an aspect of prose fiction.

Answer: *The style in prose fiction refers to the characteristics of language in a story. / Style is the manner of expression of a writer produced by choice of words, sentence structures, punctuation and organization of the work.*

42. List the aspect of style in literature.

Answer: (i) *Diction, the choice of words* (ii) *Syntax, Sentence structures* (iii) *structure, organization of the work*

43. What is referred to as diction in literature?

Answer: *Diction is the writer's choice and ordering of words and the effect it has on the story.*

44. Mention the stages of a plot.

Answer: *Exposition, climax and denouement (resolution)*

45. How different is the diction of a literary work from an ordinary write-up?

Answer: *The diction of a literary work is generally figurative and artistic whereas the diction of an ordinary write-up is more literal and straight forward.*

46. Distinguish between character and characterization.

Answer: *Character is the human being, animal or supernatural being the writer presents the actions and words of the story through whereas characterization refers to the way the writer creates and manipulates the characters in the work.*

47. What is the difference between a protagonist and a hero?

Answer: *A protagonist is the leading character which the story revolves around while a hero is the character whose change of fortune evokes fear and pity in the reader and audience.*

48. What is character in fiction?

Answer: *Character refers to the human beings, animals or supernatural beings that act out the story presented in a piece of literary work.*

49. Explain the two main categories of characters in fiction.

Answer: (i) *Major characters are the main characters who dominate the event/actions in the story.* (ii) *Minor characters are the supporting characters who complement the roles performed by the major characters.*

50. Who is the antagonist character in fiction?

Answer: *The antagonist is the character who opposes the protagonist or the main character in fiction. OR The antagonist is the character who constantly opposes the protagonist in fiction.*

51. List the **two** major characters found in a novel.

Answer: *(i) Protagonist (ii) Antagonist (or Foil in some works)*

52. Who is the foil character in a literary work?

Answer: *The foil character is a character who serves as contrast to another character particularly the protagonist.*

53. Explain **three** ways by which characters are revealed in a fiction.

Answer: *(i) A character is revealed through what he/she says. (ii) A character is known by what the writer says about him/her (authorial comments) (iii) A character is revealed by what other characters say about him/her.*

54. Explain **three** main types of characters present in prose fiction or a novel.

Answer: *(i) Flat/static characters are characters who remain unchanged from the beginning to the end of the story. (ii) Round characters are characters who grow and change with events in the story (iii) Dynamic characters are characters who changes over time especially in the course of resolving the conflict or a major crisis in the plot. (iv) Stock or Stereotype characters are characters who often appears in a number of stories or plays with special role easily recognised by the reader or the audience.*

55. How is the setting revealed in a novel?

Answer: *The setting is revealed through the language, names of characters religion, dressing and other cultural elements which the characters portray or manifest in the characters.*

56. Explain the **two** main types of setting in prose fiction.

Answer: *(i) Physical/Geographical setting refers to the place or location where the events occur in a story. (ii) Historical/temporal setting refers to the time or date when the events in the story occur.*

57. State and explain **three** importance/relevance of the setting in prose fiction.

Answer: (i) *The setting makes the plot of the story real or credible.* (ii) *The setting reveals the mood of the story and makes it appropriate to the events in the narrative.* (iii) *The setting influences character and reveals the theme(s) of the work.*

58. What is the effect of the time setting in fiction?

Answer: *The time setting influences the mode of writing and the subject matter as well as theme.*

59. What is point of view in prose fiction?

Answer: *It is the angle from which way the writer tells his story // It is the perspective from which the reader hears, sees, and feels the story // It is the position from which the events are presented by the writer and observed by the reader.// It is the perspective from which the story is narrated or told.*

60. List the types of point of view in fiction and explain any two of them.

Answer: (i) *Omniscient point of view* (ii) *Limited omniscient (third person) point of view* (iii) *First person point of view*

(a) *The omniscient point of view is a narrative mode in which the writer and the characters present the events and situations in the story using the third person pronouns.*

(b) *The first person point of view is a narrative mode in which the narrator speaks directly from his own experience or speaks through one of the characters in the story using the first person pronoun "I".*

61. Which point of view is most popular with many writers and why?

Answer: *The third person point of view is most popular with many writers because it enables the writers to present the incidents in the story in a neutral and objective manner to avoid biases or subjectivity in the narrative.*

62. State **two** reasons why many writers use the third person point of view.

Answer: (i) *It prevents subjectivity in the story.* (ii) *It can give extra textual information.* (iii) *It helps to minimize personal biases of the narrator.* (iv) *It evinces objectivity.*

63. What is the theme of a piece of literary work?

Answer: *The theme is the central dominating idea of a piece of literary work.*

64. Explain subject matter as an element of prose fiction.

Answer: *The subject matter in prose fiction is what the story is all about.*

65. State the relationship between the theme and the subject matter in prose fiction.

Answer: *(i) The subject matter in prose fiction reveals the theme. (ii) The theme is deduced from the subject matter of the story. (iii) The theme is what is said about the subject matter in a text.*

66. Explain the difference between the subject matter and the theme in prose fiction.

Answer: *The subject matter is explicitly derived from the story while the theme is the abstract or the implicit ideas which is derived from the subject matter.*

67. Explain two features of the theme in a novel.

Answer: *(i) The theme is an abstract concept or idea reveal through representation in character, action and image in the work. (ii) The theme is not written down in the story but it is deciphered from the account through interpretation.*

68. What is conflict in a literary piece?

Answer: *Conflict refers to the struggle between opposing forces in a piece of literary work.*

69. Explain **three** types of conflicts in a fictional work.

Answer: *(i) The conflict between man and man arises when two individuals opposes each other in terms of belief, ideology or other aspect life. (ii) The conflict between a person and something in nature or society is as a results of the person working against the forces of nature or society. (iii) The conflict between a person and his inner self where an individual struggles in thought and conscience.*

70. What is structure in prose fiction?

Answer: *The structure is the organization or arrangement of the various elements in a work.*

71. What is symbolism in prose fiction?

Answer: *Symbolism is the use of symbols such as ordinary objects, event, person or animal to which readers attach extraordinary meaning or significance to it.*

72. What is imagery in literature?

Answer: *Imagery is language use to create images in the mind of the reader.*

73. Explain the two main types of symbols writers often use.

Answer: *(i) Cultural symbols embodies ideas and emotions that writers and readers share. (ii) Contextual symbols are symbols which derive their meanings from context and circumstances of individual works.*

74. What is motif in prose fiction?

Answer: A motif is a recurring image which can be symbols, sounds, actions, ideas or words.

75. Explain the significance of motifs in prose fiction.

Answer: *Motifs strengthen a story by adding images and ideas to theme raised in the text.*

76. Distinguish between theme and motif in prose fiction.

Answer: *Theme is the central dominating idea whereas motif is the recurring image in prose fiction.*

PART 2: THE CLOTHES OF NAKEDNESS

77. What is the significance of any place setting in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *(i) Nima as a place setting symbolizes a community with a lot of poor inhabitants who are very vulnerable at the slightest temptation to do bad things./ (ii) Nima represents an impoverished, congested and badly laid out community with most of its inhabitants being unemployed.*

78. Explain the literary relevance of the point of view used in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *In The Clothes of Nakedness, Kwakye uses the omniscient point of view because it allows him to distance himself from the story.*

79. Who is the protagonist in *The Clothes of Nakedness* and why?

Answer: *Mystique Mysterious is the protagonist because the story revolves around him with all the conflicts and main issues in the novel centering on him as a character.*

80. What is the central theme in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *The complexities of human interactions in a rich and poor society.*

81. Which character(s) can be described as heroes or heroine in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Kojo Ansah, Kofi Ntim and Fati could all be described as heroes in the novel because a change in fortune in their character invokes fear and pity in the reader.*

82. Describe the role of Esi in the novel.

Answer: *Esi is presented as the strength of a woman who calms bad tempers and supports men to achieve greatness. OR Esi plays the role of a hardworking business woman who knows how to sustain her customers.*

83. Describe the style Kwakye adopt in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *Kwakye makes use of the trickster tale narrative style that relies on one deceptive or cunning character who the story revolves around.*

84. Explain why *The Clothes of Nakedness* can be classified as a trickster tale.

Answer: *The novel is a trickster tale because the leading character, Mystique Mysterious, assumes the role of a trickster like Ananse in a traditional folktale who cunningly tricks and manipulates other characters for his personal gain.*

85. What is the symbolic relevance of the 441 Crowd?

Answer: *The 441 Crowd symbolises a group of young unemployed people who involve themselves in social vices with the help of the elderly in society mainly because of their weak social background.*

86. Explain how imagery is used to project Mystique Mysterious in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *The narrator likens Mystique Mysterious movement to that of a chameleon using the simile: “He moved slowly, like a bored chameleon”.*

87. State any two themes explored by Kwakye in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) Enduring nature of love (ii) True friendship is costly*

88. Explain *The Clothes of Nakedness* as an Akan proverb.

Answer: *It means that when a poor man promises to you clothes, listen to his name.*

89. Who is referred to as nakedness in *The Clothes of Nakedness*? Give a reason to support your answer.

Answer: *Mystique Mysterious is referred to as “nakedness”. He does not have anything but goes about promising people jobs.*

90. Identify and explain three imagery used in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) “Kill me Quick” signifies a place of social bonding and a problem solving center. (ii) “The 441 Crowd” represents the socio-economic margin in the Ghanaian society. (iii) “Drugs” represents control over an individual’s senses as well as his whole personality in the novel.*

91. Identify and explain three character traits of Baba in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) Baba is an undisciplined and lawless child/character. (ii) Baba lacks parental control and a truant child. (iii) Baba is a vulnerable child and susceptible to manipulation. (iv) Baba is an indecisive character.*

92. Explain the main role Baba plays in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *Baba plays the role as a teenager in love and a street child who is manipulated by Mystique Mysterious. OR Baba is a representative of child exploitation in the text.*

93. Why was Kofi Ntim surprised by Mystique Mysterious’ act of buying him a drink in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Mystique Mysterious is not used to acts of benevolence no matter how small.*

94. Who is the hero/heroine in *The Clothes of Nakedness*? Why?

Answer: *Kofi Ntim, Fati, Kojo Ansah and Esi are all heroes in the novel because their heroism is subordinated to communal heroism.*

95. Mention the three main physical settings of *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *(i) Nima (ii) Kanda (iii) Kwame Nkrumah Circle*

96. Which historical time setting is *The Clothes of Nakedness* set? Explain.

Answer: *Postcolonial setting because the issues and incidents developed the novel reflect what transpire in post-independence Ghanaian society.*

97. Describe any three character traits of Mystique Mysterious in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) He is very slow in movement and carry himself around as a rich man. (ii) He pretends to be a benevolent person. (iii) He is witty, exploitative as well as manipulative in nature.*

98. What is the literary relevance of “Kill me Quick” as a setting in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *“Kill me Quick” signifies a place of social bonding and a problem solving center.*

99. Describe the **two** classes of people revealed in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) The poor and vulnerable in Nima who are easily manipulated by the protagonist in the story. (ii) The rich and middle class in the Ghanaian society who take advantage of the poor and marginalized for their selfish gains.*

100. Explain why the writer of *The Clothes of Nakedness* compares Mystique Mysterious with a chameleon.

Answer: *Mystique Mysterious as the protagonist of the story is able to adapt to situations within his environment just like a chameleon changes skin colour and blend with its external environment as a camouflage.*

101. What is the symbolic relevance of the costume Mystique Mysterious puts on in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Mystique Mysterious' physical appearance portrays him as a mysterious person who cannot be predicted as the costume reflects his name and character.*

102. Explain three instances where Mystique Mysterious takes advantage of the young men in the novel.

Answer: *(i) He assists Baba to get a job as a newspaper seller and takes portion of Baba's commission. (ii) He introduces the 441 Crowd to drugs only to turn round to sell to them. (iii) He manages to help Baba get a temporal job at Henry Deny i's house as a gardener which sends Baba to police cell through his relationship Janet.*

103. Explain two ways Mystique Mysterious influence Bukari negatively?

Answer: *(i) Mystique Mysterious sends Bukari to Kwame Nkrumah Circle to introduce him to prostitution and womanizing. (ii) Bukari is influenced negatively by Mystique Mysterious when the latter introduces him to strong drinks and eventually attempts to rape Fati.*

104. Which incident in *The Clothes of Nakedness* symbolically marks the climax of the story?

Answer: *The point where Mystique Mysterious attempts to rape Fati, Bukari's wife.*

105. Explain **three** roles played by Mystique Mysterious in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) He plays the role as a benevolent person in society. (ii) He assumes the role of a fraudster and a manipulator of the vulnerable. (iii) He also acts as someone who destroys the youth in our society.*

106. Describe **one** role of any **two** major characters in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *(i) Kofi Ntim serves as a foil to Mysterious whose sole intent is to exploit and destroy his victims. (ii) Bukari plays the role of a desperate unemployed parent in search of job no matter the conditions attached to it.*

107. What is Kofi Ntim's popular name in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *He is popularly known as "philosopher nonsense".*

108. Explain why Kofi Ntim is popularly known as “philosopher nonsense”.

Answer: *He speaks recklessly to anyone and question everything that happen.*

109. Explain why Kofi Ntim serves as a foil to Mystique Mysterious in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *Kofi Ntim serves as foil to Mysterious because his traits are directly the opposite of the former.*

110. What type of character is Kofi Ntim in *The Clothes of Nakedness*? Explain your answer.

Answer: *Kofi Ntim is a dynamic character because he changes with the development of the plot of the novel.*

111. What actions of Kojo Ansah make him a target of Mystique Mysterious?

Answer: *(i) Kojo Ansah’s action which foils Mysterious attempt to rape Fati. (ii) Kojo Ansah’s moves to turn the 441 Crowd against Mysterious.*

112. Compare Kojo Ansah’s character to that of Kofi Ntim in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *Kojo Ansah is an introvert who speaks less and acts secretly whereas Kofi Ntim represents an extrovert character who speaks a lot and has greater knowledge.*

113. What step did Mystique Mysterious take to get rid of Kojo Ansah?

Answer: *Mysterious instigates the 441 Crowd to suspect and implicate Kojo Ansah in the murder of Madman.*

114. How does the setting of the story affect Baba’s lifestyle?

Answer: *Baba’s Nima environment influences him to become a lawless and indiscipline character as his parents lose control of him because of their weak economic background.*

115. What does Fati symbolize in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Fati symbolises a sincere wife and a loving mother who strives to help the husband and son to reform.*

116. What major role does Esi play in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Esi serves as an inspirer of Kofi Ntim and an indirect counselor to Fati when she tells Fati's friend what is going on in Bukari's life.*

117. Describe **two** ways Henry Denyi is manipulated by Mystique Mysterious in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *(i) Mysterious vouches for Bukari to get Denyi's taxi to drive and takes 15% of Bukari's wage without Denyi knowing. (ii) Mysterious manipulates Denyi to dismiss Bukari after Mysterious has fallen out with Bukari.*

118. What role does Madman play in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Madman serves a customer to Esi who is very comic who death brings trouble to Kojo Ansah.*

119. How relevant are the settings of Kanda, Nima and Kwame Nkrumah to the development the story in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *(i) Kanda represents a law and order society where offenders of the law are handed over to law enforcing authorities like police. (ii) Nima represents a vulnerable and lawless community where inhabitants are manipulated by people like Mysterious. (iii) Kwame Nkrumah Circle represents a place where people practice promiscuous lifestyle due to their poor socio-economic status.*

120. Explain three negative influences Mystique Mysterious has on the characters in Nima.

Answer: *(i) He supplies the 441 group with drugs to influence them to become addicts. (ii) He promises Bukari job and eventually gets him to live a promiscuous life without her wife's knowledge. (iii) Mysterious gets Baba to try his luck on Janet's love when the former secures a job for Baba as a gardener at Denyi's house which eventually lands Baba in police cell.*

121. Explain how the setting of Nima affects the development of inhabitants' morals.

Answer: *Since Nima is an impoverished society many of its inhabitants become lawless, drunkards, promiscuous and drug addicts.*

122. Explain the perspective of presentation employed in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *The perspective used by Kwakye is the omniscient point of view which presents the actions and emotional states of the characters through an overarching godlike narrator who sees and knows everything that happens in the story.*

123. Discuss **three** factors that show that the narrative approach in *The Clothes of Nakedness* is omniscient point of view.

Answer: (i) *The narrator distances himself from the story to minimize personal biases.* (ii) *The narrator from time to time comments on the attitude and thoughts of the characters.* (iii) *The narrator also criticizes the characters and is able to present many issues.*

124. Explain **two** advantages of the approach used in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: (i) *The omniscient point of view used helps the reader to have a comprehensive understanding of the text since the narrator provides unsolicited information.* (ii) *The approach adopted also creates space for other narrative approaches to find expression.*

125. What are the literary values of the omniscient narrative approach in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *The narrative technique used allow for dialogue, limited omniscient narrative and stream of consciousness to operative as it opens door for multi-perspectival approach.*

126. Describe the role of Mystique Mysterious as a trickster character.

Answer: *Mysterious pretends helping others but gains from them as he puts his victims into trouble while he goes unpunished.*

127. What is the literary significance of the approach used by Kwakye in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *The approach sustains the interest of the readers in the novel as it creates suspense and also gets the readers to identify with the story because it makes use of a trickster character and the folktale pattern.*

128. Explain **two** roles of women in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: (i) *Fati plays the role of a good wife with the husband and the son concerns at heart.* (ii) *Esi represents a woman who calms tempers and supports a man to achieve greatness.*

129. How does the 441 Crowd group depict the vulnerability of the youth in the novel?

Answer: *They are easily manipulated by Mysterious to become drug addicts and to engage in lawlessness by implicating Kojo Ansah with the murder of Madman.*

130. Explain **two** ways the setting influences the characters in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: (i)

131. State three themes in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

132. “Baba’s life could be divided into three compartments.” What are they?

Answer: (i) *When he sold newspapers.* (ii) *When he whiled away the time with friends.* (iii) *When he was with Adukwei.*

133. Explain the child motif in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *The child motif is explicit in the manner Mysterious manipulates Baba, Adukwei and the 441 youth group in an effort to destroy or put them into trouble as Baba lands in police cell and 441 youth group become drug addicts eventually.*

134. What is the broader motive for Mysterious in corrupting Baba in *The Clothes of Nakedness*?

Answer: *Mysterious main motive is to destroy the Bukari family which has Baba as its future.*

135. Identify the children exploited in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: *They are Baba, Adukwei and the 441 youth group.*

136. Explain **three** means of exploitation in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: (i) *Baba is engaged in child labour as a result of his parents’ inability to take care of him.* (ii) *The 441 youth group are offered drugs to become addicts in society.* (iii) *Bukari is helped by Mysterious to get a taxi business which Mysterious takes 15% of the profit.*

137. Explain **three** symbols used in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: (i) “Kill Me Quick” symbolises a place of social bonding and a problem solving centre for the inhabitants of Nima. (ii) The 441 Crowd represent a socio-economic margin in the Ghanaian society. (iii) Drugs symbolize control over an individual’s senses as well as his whole personality.

138. Who are the three 441 group members Kojo Ansah fails to free from Mysterious manipulation?

Answer: They are Yaw Cake, Danger Diabolic and Dada.

139. Explain **one** imagery used in projecting a particular character in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

Answer: The writer uses simile at the beginning of the story to compare Mysterious’ movement to a chameleon in the lines “He moved slowly, like a bore chameleon”. This creates a mental picture of how Mysterious walks and helps the reader to understand him better.

PART 3: THE SHADOW OF IMANA

140. What is the meaning of “Imana” in the title: *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: “Imana” simply means the image of god or God of creation.

141. What is the main purpose of the writer of *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: The main purpose of the writer is to criticize the evils of the genocide in Rwanda.

142. Explain the role of the Narrator in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: The Narrator serves as an interviewer, a narrator and a writer who helps readers to understand the issues of the genocide and its effect on the society.

143. Why does Tadjó make use of both the first person and the third person point of views?

Answer: She combines the first person and the third person point of views to help her readers know, see, hear and feel what takes place in Rwanda during and after the genocide. OR The first and third person point of views enables the writer to give different perspectives to the story of genocide as the reader gets to hear both the narrator and the interviewees.

144. Mention the memory sources from which Tadjó recounts her story.

Answer: Collectively owned memory and individual memory.

145. How does Tadjó describe genocide?

Answer: *Tadjó describes genocide as “evil incarnate”.*

146. What is the major theme of *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: *The theme of life, death and quest for survival. Or A quest for survival in a disoriented society.*

147. In **one** sentence, describe the language used by Tadjó.

Answer: *The language used is simple, straightforward and evokes pain, trauma and all what paints a clear picture of the genocide.*

148. Identify the **three** parts of the structure of *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *(i) The journey to Rwanda (ii) The wrath of the dead where Rwandan cultural belief is invoked (iii) The second journey*

149. State the major conflict in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The major conflict is the ethnic hatred between Hutus and Tutsis.*

150. What does the scene of the soothsayer reveal about the Rwandans?

Answer: *The scene of the soothsayer invokes the Rwandan traditional belief.*

151. In two sentences, explain the Ten Commandments of the Hutu in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *(i) The commandments of the Hutus seeks to deepen the ethnic hatred as it depicts the Tutsis as evil and projecting the Hutus as real human beings. (ii) Also, the commandments is a call on all Hutus to entrench their humanity.*

152. What is the historical significance of the text *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: *It recounts the genocide that happened in Rwanda in 1994 and their earlier conflict, highlighting the evils of man and the need to forgive and forget such evils to heal.*

153. What does Tadjó's *The Shadow of Imana* seek to achieve?

Answer: *It seeks to highlight the evils of man during the genocide and advocates for forgiveness, reconciliation and the healing from the evils.*

154. How will you describe the narrative technique of *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: *The narrative technique is appropriate as it offers the narrator opportunity to present the events through both the interviewees and the interviewer providing diverse accounts which makes the story credible.*

155. How does the personal narratives of the characters in *The Shadow of Imana* make the narrative credible?

Answer: *The personal narratives of the characters make the story credible because the characters constitute the survivors and victims of the tragedy which the writer recounts.*

156. Describe the nature of language used in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The language is very objective and evokes pain and trauma.*

157. Explain *The Shadow of Imana* as irony.

Answer: *The novella is an irony in the sense that it indirectly criticize the evils of the Rwandan genocide.*

158. What type of narrative genre is *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: *It is a travel narrative or a travelogue.*

159. What are the **two** categories of survivors in *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: *They are the victims of rape and physical torture.*

160. In **one** sentence, describe the structure of *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The story is structured under six main themes with each titled session having a sub-narration.*

161. Explain the three roles Tadjó play in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *She plays the roles of a character, a narrator and a writer in the story.*

162. What role do the supporting characters in *The Shadow of Imana* play?

Answer: *The supporting characters narrate their individual experiences to the interviewer for readers to get a broader perspective of the issues of the genocide in Rwanda.*

163. In not more than two sentences, describe the setting of *The Shadow of Imana*

Answer: *The setting depicts scenes of the genocide where traces of the massacred persons are found. The sites provide ample evidence of torture in various locations including churches to show a clear picture of what happened in the country.*

164. Why does the narrator in *The Shadow of Imana* alternate between the third person and first person point of view?

Answer: *The various versions of the narration on the same subject provides diverse voices which if reconciled makes the accounts credible.*

165. Explain any two sub-themes in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: (i) *Separation in times of crisis: this is true in the sense that during the genocide, families were separated from each other with most people losing their relations.* (ii) *Forgiveness as an ultimate measure to reconciliation: the atrocities committed against fellow humans during the genocide can only be healed through forgiveness which leads to reconciliation.*

166. Explain the style adopted by Tadjó in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *Tadjó adopts a multiple plot narration style to recount the short stories which provide a vivid picture of the genocide in both plain and literary language. OR Tadjó writes in the form of a travel diary where she inculcates dialogue in the form of interviews to assemble voices of survivors and witness of the genocide.*

167. Describe the plot of *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The writer recounts the story of the Rwandan genocide that saw a vast number of Tutsis and some Hutus killed.*

168. Identify and explain two instances of tribalism and othering in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: (i) *The term cockroaches was used as an ethnic slur mostly by the Hutu majority group to refer to the minority Tutsi group. (ii) The Hutus promulgated The Ten Commandments which projects the Hutus over the Tutsis who are seen as inferior human beings.*

169. In two sentences, explain the role the media played in the Rwandan genocide.

Answer: (i) *The media used by people to propagate racial slurs which provoked people to pick up the sword. (ii) The media was used by the government to account to the people on its stewardship of the country.*

170. Justify why the media can be described as a paradox in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The media was used as a tool for development yet other media was used to cause destruction to human beings before and during the genocide.*

171. With reference to *The Shadow of Imana*, explain the role of France in the Rwandan genocide.

Answer: *France supplied the Rwandan government with fire arms and other weapons in the events leading to the genocide.*

172. With reference to *The Shadow of Imana*, identify and describe any two sites Tadjó visited in Rwanda.

Answer: (i) *Tadjó visited the Nyamata Church where estimated plus or minus 35,000 people died. (ii) She also visited Ntarama Church where an estimated 5,000 person were massacred. (iii) Finally, she visited*

173. Describe any **two** issues of trauma in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: (i) *The women who were raped in broad daylight were traumatized by the action of the perpetrators of the crime. (ii) The sites of the genocide haunt the survivors any time they perceive the dead relatives crying out to them.*

174. In one sentence, describe the role of the judiciary in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The judiciary provided opportunity for victims and survivors to reconcile with the perpetrators who genuinely confess their crimes and show repentance.*

175. What was the GACACA court system? What significant role did it play in post genocide Rwanda?

Answer: *The Gacaca court system was a community tribunal. It held cases of people accused of playing a part in the genocide and got the accused to take responsibility for their offenses to show remorse to aid reconciliation.*

176. Describe the main role of the lawyer from Kigali in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The lawyer from Kigali helps the reader to understand the law and the various levels of punishments for the perpetrators of the crime.*

177. In two sentences, describe Nelly as a supporting character in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *(i) Nelly who has a daughter and two grandchildren is a victim of the genocide. (ii) Nelly has contracted a disease from the war through rape and is preparing to die.*

178. Explain “the seven wonders” in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *The seven wonders represent the seven friends who were always seen together on a campus. Through the seven wonders, we get to know how the genocide affected Rwandan students and their lecturers.*

179. Mention and describe any two minor characters in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *(i) Anastasie is a victim of rape and genocide whose brother Anastase capitalizes on the evils of the time to rape his sister. (ii) Froduard is a young farmer who turned a murderer during the genocide and ends up in prison after the war.*

180. Explain three instances of social discrimination in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *(i) The Seven Wonders were colleague students in university but because of the war they were forced to turn against each other on tribal grounds. (ii) The Ten Commandments of the Hutus instigates the Hutus against the Tutsi as inferior human beings. (iii) The Zairean woman’s experience with the Hutus soldiers who took her for a Tutsi, killed her baby in front of her and raped her on top.*

181. Briefly explain how social discrimination brings about social disintegration in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Answer: *As a result of the social discrimination in the Rwanda society many people began to leave their home countries for other countries while others lost family members and became orphans or single households.*

182. What is described as “Hutu Power” in *The Shadow of Imana*?

Answer: *“The Ten Commandments of the Hutus” is referred to as “Hutu Power” in the story.*

SECTION B

ESSAY-TYPE QUESTIONS

STRUCTURE OF THE RESPONSE TO ESSAY QUESTIONS

Introduction

- ✓ The title of the text and the author’s name
- ✓ The setting, main characters, themes or message(s)
- ✓ A brief background to the issue to be discussed or addressed (including explanation of terms)
- ✓ State the purpose or the thesis for the essay

Body

- ✓ Raise related ideas to the issues in the question and discuss them thoroughly
- ✓ Use a topic sentence to state each idea for discussion
- ✓ Develop your ideas with relevant evidence from the text
- ✓ Use the simple present tense to present your response
- ✓ Avoid narrating the story. Rather, address the specific issue/topic in the question

Conclusion

- ✓ Sum up the ideas you have discussed
- ✓ Provide your personal response in relation to the question/what has been discussed in the body.

NB: There is no limit to the length of your response/answer unless otherwise stated. You must always develop your ideas fully within the time allotted.

Scoring Guide

- I. **Content:** the main issues raised and discussed in the essay and their relevance
- II. **Organisation:** proper organization of the write-up with good introduction, well-developed paragraphs in the body, internal connectives and a succinct conclusion.
- III. **Expression:** use of appropriate literary expressions and terminologies while the language reflecting the tone of the question, i.e. the ideas must be communicated clearly in unambiguous language.
- IV. **Mechanical Accuracy (MA):** avoid the following blemishes and errors in your essays: grammar, punctuation, amalgamation and spelling.

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS WITH OUTLINES

The Clothes of Nakedness

1. Discuss the relevance of the settings of Kwakye's *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
2. Examine the role of Mystique Mysterious as a trickster character in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.

The Shadow of Imana.

1. Critically examine the style and diction employed by Tadjó in *The Shadow of Imana* to report the message of genocide in Rwanda.
2. Discuss three thematic concerns explored by Tadjó in *The Shadow of Imana*.

SAMPLE OUTLINES FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS

The Clothes of Nakedness

1. Discuss the relevance of the main settings of Kwakye's *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
 - ✓ The settings in The Clothes of Nakedness regulates the characters in the story
 - Nima, Kanda, Kwame Nkrumah Circle relate to individual characters
 - Nima, Kanda, Kwame Nkrumah Circle relate to themes
 - ✓ The setting defines the culture of the text. Ghanaian settings: time and place
 - The incidents occurring in a particular time and place
 - The communal living of people of Nima
 - The seclusion/isolated living style of Kanda people
 - Prostitution and other social vices at Kwame Nkrumah Circle
 - The poverty and unemployment of Nima as a community
 - The contrasting characteristics of Nima and Kanda

2. Examine the role of **Mystique** as a trickster character in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
 - ✓ He serves as a bridge between the poor inhabitants of Nima and the rich in Kanda.
 - ✓ He is a friend and helper of Bukari and the other friends who usually visit the Kill Me Quick.
 - ✓ He presents himself as a helper of the vulnerable in society.
 - ✓ He serves as a manipulator of children in the story.
 - ✓ He plays the role of a criminal who destroys others.

The Shadow of Imana.

1. Critically examine the style and diction employed by Tadjo in *The Shadow of Imana* to report the message of genocide in Rwanda.
 - ✓ Tadjo employs multiple point of views to report the accounts of both active and passive witnesses of the genocide.
 - ✓ She uses dialogue to make the accounts more realistic and to gives the story a dramatic taste and draws our imagination into the text.
 - ✓ Tadjo also makes use of descriptive and figurative language to strengthen the narrative.
 - ✓ Vocabulary relating to war, genocide, death, abuse is carefully selected to present the message.
 - ✓ The syntax is very simple, short sentences and formal structures.

2. Discuss **three** thematic concerns explored by Tadjo in *The Shadow of Imana*.
 - ✓ Trauma and its psychological effect on the genocide victims and survivors.
 - ✓ The effects of genocide on people and society.
 - ✓ The impact of the genocide on women and children. (Raped, murdered after been raped, became widows, orphans left behind, unemployed, uneducated, poverty and disease like AIDS etc.)
 - ✓ The consequences of war on humankind and the world.
 - ✓ Forgiveness as an ultimate measure to reconciliation.
 - ✓ Separation in times of crisis.
 - ✓ The theme of collectivism.
 - ✓ The theme of life, death and the quest for survival.
 - ✓ Ethnocentrism and its effect on women and the minority in society. (References should be made to *The Ten Commandments of the Hutus* titled “Hutu Power” page 112-113).

NB: You must elaborate the ideas suggested by citing textual evidence to support your discussions. You can also paraphrase ideas from the texts to support your discussions. Each idea must be developed in a single paragraph. Make sure you read through your write-up to correct all grammatical and spelling errors. The title of the text must always be underlined in the essay.

SAMPLE INTRODUCTIONS

The Clothes of Nakedness

The Clothes of Nakedness written by Benjamin Kwakye, a Ghanaian writer, is a fictional prose narrative that talks about a fictional figure known as Mystique Mysterious and his relationships with people living in Nima, a suburb of Accra. The story is in the form of a trickster tale and is set in post- colonial Ghana with the centre of attraction being Nima, Kanda and Kwame Nkrumah Circle, all in Accra. The protagonist, Mystique Mysterious, is a trickster and through his cunning and crook ways entangles characters like Bukari, Kojo Ansah and Kofi Ntim. Some of the themes explored by Kwakye include the effects of bad relationships, filial love among the youth and its consequences, drug peddling and its abuse by the youth and unemployment and its effects on the poor in society. *The setting of a piece of literary work refers to the place and the time the events and actions of the story is imagined to have occurred. This essay seeks to discuss three significance of the settings in The Clothes of Nakedness.*

The Shadow of Imana

Veronique Tadjó's The Shadow of Imana is a travel narrative which seeks to reveal a clear picture of what happened in Rwanda during the genocide. Tadjó's piece is a realistic account of what transpired in Rwanda as recounted by both active and passive victims and survivors. The stories are cleverly presented in a style that makes it a literary text. The setting is set in post-genocide Rwanda with different sites of the genocide featuring. Some of the place settings include Kigali, the capital; Nyamata Church, site of genocide where about 35,000 people died and Ntarama Church, another site of genocide where about 5,000 people perished. Tadjó's narrative explores the effect of the genocide on people and the society at large. *In this write-up, I shall examine the style and diction used by Tadjó to reach out to her readers.*

Specimen Essays

Question 1: With reference to Kwakye's *The Clothes of Nakedness*, discuss **three** character traits of Mystique Mysterious and show how the traits help him to manipulate other characters in the text.

Outline for the Essay

- A. **Introduction:** Provide background for the discussion highlighting the main ingredients of the question: traits of the protagonist and how he manages to manipulate other characters like Bukari, Baba, 441 crowd group etc.
- B. **Body:** Consider the following traits:
- ✓ Mystique Mysterious imposing physical appearance
 - ✓ His seeming benevolence
 - ✓ His cunning and witty nature
 - ✓ His exploitative traits and manipulative skills
 - ✓ How the traits affect characters such as Bukari, Baba, Fati, Kofi Ntim, Madman, the 441 crowd, Henry Denyi etc.
- C. **Conclusion:** Give a brief summary of the discussion and a little personal response to the issue discussed.

Response to Question 1

The Clothes of Nakedness is a postcolonial novel written by Benjamin Kwakye, a Ghanaian writer. It is a fictional prose narrative that talks about a fictional figure known as Mystique Mysterious who lives in Nima but has relationships with people living in Kanda, a suburb of Accra. The story is in the form of a trickster tale which mostly has as its protagonist a trickster who is able to manipulate his way through life by entangling others. In the story, the protagonist, Mystique Mysterious, who this discussion focuses on is a trickster and through his cunning and crook ways entangles characters like Bukari, Kojo Ansah, Kofi Ntim and many others. Some of the themes explored by Kwakye include the effects of bad relation, caring for one another and being each other's keeper, money as disintegrative tool and the enduring nature of love. The protagonist of this story, Mystique Mysterious, is endowed with several character traits which clearly make him stand out from the rest of the characters. Mystique Mysterious' character traits such as his imposing physical appearance, his seeming benevolence, his cunning and witty nature as well as

his exploitative and manipulative skills largely contribute to his ability to manipulate characters like Bukari, Kofi Ntim, Baba, Henry Denyi and the 441 crowd for his personal gains.

Firstly, Mystique Mysterious has an imposing physical appearance which makes him a special person wherever he goes. In the novel, he appears for the first time wearing a pair of dark sunglasses and approached the Kill Me Quick. His costumes make him very unique to anyone he encounters for the first time. The glasses makes it impossible for anyone to see his real identity as it serves as a face covering. The writer captures this in the first page of the novel when he says that it was impossible to tell his real identity because his eyes were always hidden behind a pair of sunglasses. Apart from the fact that he disguises himself any time he steps out, he also carries himself as a rich person by often going out with Denyi's Mercedes Benz or Range Rover. Through this means, Mysterious gets the trust of Bukari, Kofi Ntim, Baba as well as the 441 crowd. Mysterious succeeds in convincing Bukari that he can help him get a job. Since he carries himself out as a well-to-do person, Bukari follows him to Denyi's house where Bukari is offered the opportunity to drive Denyi's taxi. This incident is followed by Mysterious' real motive of assisting Bukari get the taxi to drive. He charges Bukari 15% of whatever wage Bukari draws from the taxi business. In addition to foregoing incident, Mysterious also poses in this same magnificent posture before he lures both Baba and the 441 crowd to get them to be on his side. Baba is assisted to get a job as a newspaper vendor only for Mysterious to demand a portion of the young boy's commission from the sales. Lastly, Mysterious poses in the same gorgeous manner to trick the 441 group to trust him and through that he influences them to become drug addicts. At first, Mysterious gives the drugs free of charge to the group but later he sells to them for money which he lives on.

Secondly, Mystique Mysterious' seeming benevolence to the vulnerable people of Nima helps him to manipulate most of them he has an encounter with. One clear instance from the novel is when he offers Baba a bundle of money when he first has an encounter with the young boy. Through this seeming benevolence, Mysterious gets closer to Baba and eventual manipulates him for his personal gain. Baba is helped to secure a job as a newspaper vendor by Mysterious only for Mysterious to turn round to demand a share of Baba's profit. Apart from the manipulation of Baba, Mystique Mysterious gets closer to the 441 group and started offering them drugs for free. He gradually gets their mind and started selling the drugs to them for his personal gain. Also, the group is manipulated to turn down Kojo Ansah's offer of freedom from Mysterious bondage. They are manipulated to implicate Kojo Ansah in the murder of Madman which leads to Kojo Ansah's

execution. Mystique Mysterious continues his manipulation of other characters such as Kofi Ntim whom after being helped to have a job fails to pay the percentage as agreed. Mysterious organizes for him to be beaten.

Thirdly, Mystique Mysterious' cunning and witty nature enables him lure some characters to satisfy his personal motives. One of such character Mysterious succeeds to manipulate through his cunning and witty nature is Jojo's father to get his family out of the Bukari's compound to make it easy for Mysterious to get access to Fati when then whole compound was quiet. By offering Jojo's father money, the latter agrees to go to the cinema with his family so that Mysterious can take advantage of the situation and visit Fati secretly to operationalize his action of having sex with Fati in the absence of Baba and Bukari. Another instance of Mysterious cunning and witty nature is manifested when he introduces Bukari to Denyi for the latter to give his taxi to Bukari only for Mysterious to go behind to collect 15% of Bukari's earning on at the blind side of Denyi. Furthermore, Mystique Mysterious cleverly tricks Baba into believing that Janet loves him only to put Baba into trouble after Baba sneaked into the Denyi's house without permission. Baba is eventually arrested and placed in police custody. Through his tricks, Mysterious is able to get the 441 group to instigate the execution of Kojo Ansah since he sees the latter as a threat to his humanity.

Finally, one significant trait of Mystique Mysterious worth discussing is his exploitative and manipulative skills which enable him to entangle most of the characters in the novel. Through manipulation, Mystique Mysterious introduces Bukari to prostitutes and eventually ruins Bukari's home. As a responsible family man, Bukari fails to detect the trap set for him by Mysterious and rather dances to his tune. In fact, Bukari's inability to run away from Mysterious can be attributed to the trust Bukari has for Mysterious as a friend. Another exploitative tendency of Mysterious is manifested in the incident where he changes the mind of the 441 group against Kojo Ansah after he has failed to manipulate Kojo Ansah. When Kojo Ansah remains resolute and proves to be difficult to manipulate, Mysterious hatches a plot to get him executed. Another instance of his exploitative tendencies is his willingness to buy any amount of drink for Madman and Kofi Ntim to engage in a drinking contest which eventually exposes the frailty of Madman who dies through Mysterious' initiatives or direct involvement.

From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that Mystique Mysterious' imposing physical appearance, his seeming benevolence, his cunning and witty nature as well as his exploitative and manipulative skills largely help him to take advantage of the other characters for his personal

gains or just to destroy them. Such a trickster character like Mysterious is often popular in Ghanaian folktale and his main motive is to manipulate others to survive in a relatively poor society we live in as Africans. It is important for every reader to be weary of such deceptive figures like Mystique Mysterious who lives among us and are always ready to capitalize on our inadequacies.

Question 2: Discuss the extent to which social discrimination brings about social disintegration in *The Shadow of Imana*.

Outline for the Essay

- A. **Introduction:** Provide a brief background to the essay paying attention to the key terminologies used in the question: social discrimination and social disintegration. Attempt to explain the assertion clearly before proceeding to discuss the substance of the issues.
- B. **Body:** Show the instances of social discrimination
- ✓ The Seven Wonders
 - ✓ The Ten Commandments of the Hutus
 - ✓ The Young Zairean woman's experience
 - ✓ Discussion must show the effects of the discrimination as disintegration of the affected people in society.
- C. **Conclusion:** Give a brief summary of the key issues addressed in the body justifying or refuting the assertion.

Response to Question 2

Veronique Tadjó's The Shadow of Imana is a travel narrative which seeks to reveal a clear picture of what happened in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994. Tadjó's piece is a literary account of what transpired in Rwanda as recounted by both active and passive victims and survivors. The stories are cleverly presented in a style that makes it a literary piece. The setting is set in post-genocide Rwanda with different sites of the genocide featuring. Some of the place settings include Kigali, the capital; Nyamata Church, site of genocide where about 35,000 people died and Ntarama Church, another site of genocide where about 5,000 people perished. Tadjó's narrative explores the effect of the genocide on people and the society at large. It is very important at this point to explain the key terminologies in this discussion. Social discrimination refers to the act of sustained inequality

between individuals and groups on the basis of tribe, religion and other social considerations. On the other hand, social disintegration is the tendency for society to decline or disintegrate over time. In the context, *The Shadow of Imana*, the issue of social discrimination is very deep that it leads to social disintegration of people in post-genocide Rwandan society. *This essay seeks to discuss the extent to which social discrimination brings about social disintegration in the novella.*

In the first place, “The Seven Wonders” represents a clear case of social discrimination in the Rwandan society which brings about disintegration. The Seven Wonders were seven friends in a university campus during the genocide. These seven friends have earned the nickname “The Seven Wonders” because of how they relate to each other in spite of their tribal differences. Prior to the war which led to the genocide, the seven friends attended lectures together in the same lecture theatres, played the same sports. Truly, the seven friends relate to each other to a point that they go out together with their girlfriends. The bond between these university students was manifest in how they do things in common. They never felt that they come from different tribes like Hutu, Tutsi or the Twa. In actual fact, the issue of discrimination along ethnic lines became apparent in the 1990s when parents of these young people began to propagate hate among the people. The Hutu Power propaganda becomes very entrenched that at the university they begin to tag their lecturers as being Hutu or Tutsi. All the propaganda never bordered students who continue to live in unity and oneness. The outbreak of the war saw the strong friendship among the students broken. These students’ lives are greatly influenced by the genocide and the war. This social discrimination brought about by the events leading to the genocide and the war itself completely disintegrates the young people in Rwanda. Both students of Hutu and Tutsi decent no longer want to further their education in the country but rather would prefer to go to Europe or the Americas to have their higher education. The issue of social discrimination has ruined the Rwanda society to a point that many Rwandans prefer staying outside their own country.

The second main issue that caused social discrimination among Rwandans is the promulgation of the Hutu Power which is also referred to as “The Ten Commandments of the Hutus”. The publication of the Hutu Power in the pro-Hutu extremists’ journal *Kangura* on 10th December, 1990 deepened the ethnic discrimination in the country. These Ten Commandments sought to deepen the ethnic hatred as it depicts the Tutsi’s as evil and inferior while projecting the Hutus as good and real human beings. The commandments were a call on Hutus to entrench their humanity. Apart from the foregoing, the Ten Commandments forbids all Hutu women from marrying Tutsi men. The commandments also describe all Tutsi as dishonest when it comes to

business and encouraged Hutus not to do business with Tutsi or lend money to or borrow from them. The ten commandment widen the social gap between the Hutus and the Tutsis to a level that it was impossible to control. Also, the Hutus' advocated for the political, economic, education, military and security services to be dominated by them while urging fellow Hutus not to feel sorry for the Tutsis. The effect of this strong social discrimination is the result of the genocide which has disintegrated the Rwandan society to its lowest level. Many Rwandans continue to live in exile while the rest live a discontented lifestyle in their own country. Families have been destroyed as a result of this great division brought about by the Hutu Power and the eventual genocide which followed it.

Lastly, the young Zairean woman's experience is a good example of social discrimination in the novella. The Zairean woman happens to be a foreigner living in Rwanda during the genocide. For the fact that this woman resembles a Tutsi, the Hutu soldiers would not take it kindly with her as they pounce on her in the absence of her husband, kills her baby right in front of her. The woman's respond to the soldiers, "I'm not a Tutsi, I'm Zairean". The soldier retorted, "If you're Zairean why are you hiding? Tell me the truth or I'll kill you right now, give me your kid". This scene depicts a society which has been deeply corrupted and divided along ethnic lines. People who were perceived to resemble Tutsis were not spared as in the case of the young Zairean woman. Apart killing her kid, the soldiers also raped her and left. The situation in Rwanda during the genocide taught many foreigners like the young Zairean woman a lesson to leave for their home countries. In spite of the trauma she went through, she gathers confidence and went to Zaire in a lorry. The issue of social discrimination was then depended as many foreigners fled the country after the genocide and even Rwandans yearn to leave their country and never contemplate to return.

In sum, it is justifiable to conclude that social discrimination in its different forms which took place before and during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda largely brought about the disintegration of the Rwandan society till date. The instances of social discrimination such as the seven wonders' situation, the ten commandments of the Hutus and the young Zairean woman's experience are all ample justification to that fact. Rwanda has actually suffered for encouraging such discriminatory actions which were perpetrated against fellow citizens and people of Africa decent during the genocide.

1. Style is the unique and efficient way a writer employs in his writing. Discuss the style of Kwakye in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
2. Discuss **four** themes Kwakye explore in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
3. Discuss the character and role of Kofi Ntim in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
4. Why would you describe Mystique Mysterious as the protagonist of *The Clothes of Nakedness*?
5. Examine the character and role of any two female characters in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.
6. Discuss the view that *The Clothes of Nakedness* is a trickster tale.
7. With reference to *The Clothes of Nakedness* and *The Shadow of Imana*, show how the thematic concerns reflect the settings in the novels.
8. Discuss the major theme of “a quest for survival in a disoriented society” in *The Shadow of Imana*.
9. Examine the role of the narrator in *The Shadow of Imana*.
10. Discuss the extent to which social discrimination brings about social disintegration in *The Shadow of Imana*,
11. Examine the character and role of Baba in *The Clothes of Nakedness* and show how he represents child exploitation in the novel.
12. With reference to Kwakye’s *The Clothes of Nakedness*, discuss how setting influences characters and its effect in the text.
13. In Tadjó’s *The Shadow of Imana*, her project is aimed at discouraging ethnic conflicts in Africa. Examine her approach in getting people to avoid any form of ethnic conflict and show the effect of the approach.
14. With reference to Kwakye’s *The Clothes of Nakedness*, discuss three character traits of Mystique Mysterious and show how the traits help him to manipulate other characters in the text.
15. Compare and assess the narrative perspectives of Kwakye’s *The Clothes of Nakedness* and Tadjó’s Kwakye’s *The Shadow of Imana*.
16. Examine and contrast the style and diction used by Kwakye and Tadjó in their novels.
17. Succinctly examine the plot of Kwakye’s *The Clothes of Nakedness* and Tadjó’s *The Shadow of Imana* showing their similarities or the differences in them.
18. With close reference to Kwakye’s *The Clothes of Nakedness* and Tadjó’s *The Shadow of Imana*, discuss by way of comparison four main postcolonial experiences of African countries.

19. Examine the symbolic relevance of “The Ten Commandments of the Hutus” in *The Shadow of Imana*.
20. Examine the role of the media in developing the plot of *The Shadow of Imana*.
21. Compare the characters in Kwakye’s *The Clothes of Nakedness* and Tadjó’s *The Shadow of Imana* and show how they help reveal the issues in the novels.
22. Discuss three imagery used in *The Clothes of Nakedness* and show their effect in the story.
23. Discuss the child motif in *The Clothes of Nakedness*.