UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

UNIVERSITEITSEKSAMENS

UNISA university of south africa

ENG2603

May/June 2018

Colonial and Postcolonial African Literatures

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

EXAMINERS

FIRST	PROF FA KALUA PROF LJ RAFAPA	DR MJ LENTO PROF MT VAMBE
SECOND	PROF S MAITHUFI	

Closed book examination

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This examination question paper consists of 4 pages

ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A, AND ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B

[TURN OVER]

SECTION A

You must answer **ONE** question from this section

1 Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Walter's decisions and actions in *A Raisin in the Sun* are largely selfish, and the other family members are powerless to stop him ruining their dreams because they are women

Write an essay in which you *agree* or *disagree* with the statement above Use examples from the play to support the argument that you develop

OR

2 Fred Khumalo, *Seven Steps to Heaven*

With reference to characters of your choice in *Seven Steps to Heaven,* discuss how the *leitmotif* of a layered onion expresses multiplicity in the novel

NB Your answers should be analytical rather than a re-telling of the text's main points Marks will be deducted from answers that merely provide a plot summary

(50 marks)

SECTION B

You must answer **ONE** question from this section

3 Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*

How can I describe the sensations that swamped me when Babamukuru started his car, with me in the front seat beside him, on the day I left home? It was relief, but more than that It was more excitement and anticipation What I experienced that day was a short cut, a rerouting of everything I had ever defined as me into the fast lanes that would speedily lead me to my destination My horizons were saturated with me, my leaving, my going There was no room for what I left behind My father, affably, shallowly agreeable as ever, was insignificant, my mother, my anxious mother, was no more than another piece of surplus scenery to be maintained, of course to be maintained, but all the same superfluous, an obstacle in the path of my departure As for my sisters, well, they were there They were watching me

climb into Babamukuru's car to be whisked away to limitless horizons It was up to them to learn the important lesson that circumstances were not immutable, no burden so binding that it could not be dropped The honour for teaching them this emancipating lesson was mine I claimed it all, for here I was, living proof of the moral There was no doubt in my mind that this was the case (p 58)

Using the extract above from *Nervous Conditions* as a starting point, write an essay in which you discuss Tambu's experiences at the mission and how she negotiates the dilemmas and contradictions of colonial education You should engage with both the given extract as well as other significant moments in the novel to support the argument that you develop

OR

4 Identify one key metaphor in St J Page Yako's poem, 'The Contraction and Enclosure of the Land', and comment on how the poet uses and elaborates upon this image to express his outrage at colonial oppression

The Contraction and Enclosure of the Land

Thus spake the heirs of the land
Although it is no longer ours
This land will be folded like a blanket
till it is like the palm of a hand
The racing ox will become entangled in the wire,
Too weak to dance free, it will be worn
Out by the dance of the yoke and the plough
They will crowd us together like tadpoles
In a calabash ladle Our girls
Will have their lobola paid with paper,
Coins that come and go, come and go
Blood should not be spilled, so they say
Nowadays, to unite the different peoples,
Until we no longer care for each other,

As a cow licks her calf, when love
And nature urges her to do so
Can money bring people together?
Yes, a man may have words with his son's wife,
His son need no longer respect her mother

Yes, we fold up our knees
It's impossible to stretch out,
Because the land has been hedged in

(tr isiXhosa Robert Kavanagh and Z.S Qangule)

(50 marks)
TOTAL MARKS: 100

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