

The
Management
University
of Africa



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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

LIT 402 : SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 6TH AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The traffic gave way and I drove on. I remembered my mother's medicine and made a detour into a market district to check their prices. The roads there were as tight as corridors and gutters dipped inches from my car tires. Crowded stalls blasted out bluish light fluorescent lights. Their iron roofs collapsed into each other. I called out to a young man behind the counter at a pharmacy stall. "You have Propanolol?" He nodded. "Let me see it," I said. He hurried over and held the bottle up. I noticed the expiration date. "This has expired," I said. He snatched it and walked away.

When I reached Sheri's house my shoulders were as tight as springs. She opened her door wearing another colorful agbada and matching head tie. I sniffed. "What are you cooking?" "A little food," she said. "I hope I'm going to eat some of that," I said. "Eat what you want," she said. "Ibrahim doesn't eat much." "Ibrahim. "The Brigadier. Have you heard of him?" "Does he treat you well?" She came out again, cleaning her hands with a dish towel. "I live here. I don't have to worry about money." "Yes, but does he treat you well?" She sat down. "Which one of our men really treats women well?" "I don't know many." "So," she said. I inspected my nails. "Isn't he married, Sheri."

Polygamy was considered risqué. Women in our generation who opted for it ended up looking quite the opposite of traditional. She nodded. "To two women, and he can marry two more if he wants. He's a Moslem." "Is that what you want?" She laughed. "Want? I beg you, don't talk to me about want. When my father died who remembered me? Chief Bakare done die, God Bless his family. We didn't even know where our next meal was coming from, and no one cared. Not even my uncle, who took all his money."

"But your father and uncle were close." She shook her head. "Don't let anyone deceive you. Pray you're never in a situation to need them. It is

then you will know what two plus two really makes. Listen, I take care of my family, I even take care of Ibrahim. Since morning I'm cooking. He may not show up, and this won't be the first time. So if I have to tie my head up when I go out... " "You have to tie your head?" "He's a strict Moslem." I rolled my eyes.

"And if I can't go out once in a while," Sheri was saying. "He stops you from going out? What's next? Purdah?" She laughed. "You think it's funny?" I said. "You're better than this, Sheri. Anyone you want, you can have." "Who said? You remember what happened to me?" I remembered only that she was the most powerful girl I knew, and then she wasn't anymore, and I became disappointed with her. "Not that," she said. "You can say it. I did not rape them; they raped me, and if they see me they'd better cross the road." "The border and hemisphere even," I mumbled. "Yes," she said. "They can cross that too, because if I get my hands on them, there will be nothing left to cross with."

Required:

- a) Analyze two literary devices used in the text.

(4 marks)

- b) Describe three character traits of Sheri as captured in this excerpt.

(6 marks)

- c) Evaluate three thematic concerns brought out by the author this excerpt.

(6

marks)

- d) Patriarchy has never been merciful on the African woman. Using three examples from the excerpt, justify this assertion.

(6 marks)

- e) Sheri is a victim of her society, yet she refuses to adopt a victim mentality. Defend this statement with evidence from the excerpt.

(3 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a)** Socio-Economic degradation, crime, and survival is a major concern of the African literary artist. Using any text studied in this course, defend this statement.

(9 marks)

- b)** Examine how African writers have captured post-colonial expectations and disillusionment.

(6 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a)** Without African literature by the Africans, the global literary landscape would be a dull place. Examine the validity of this statement. **(9 marks)**

- b)** Based on any texts that you have interacted with in this course describe the features of colonial literature on Africa.

(6 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a)** African literature is a mouthpiece for challenges faced by the African in diaspora. Using any text studied in this course, justify this statement.

**(9
marks)**

- b)** Using any texts explored in this course, assess how the authors have used symbols to highlight the yoke of patriarchy on women.

(6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Analyse three factors that led to the growth and spread of African literature.

**(9
marks)**

- b) Some African writers have used Oral traditions to add an African flavour in to their works of art. Defend this statement.

(6 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Through their authentic voices, African women writers challenge marriage as a safe haven for the African female folk. Defend this statement. **(9 marks)**

- b) Analyse any two stylistic devices used by the writers to showcase the emancipation of the African woman. **(6 marks)**