

The
Management
University
of Africa



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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

LIT 403: LITERATURE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

DATE: 30TH MARCH 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:

She had left Francis over four weeks before, she did not ask for any maintenance either for herself or for the children. She had to pay almost forty pounds a month for the children at the nursery and for their dinner money and to a girl to take Titi and Vicky across the road. She had to pay almost the same amount for the rent, to say nothing of the fact that most of her everyday clothes, their cooking utensils, even the spoons and the children's vitamin coupons and the family allowances were all with him. Now he came here adding this insult to all the injuries he had caused. Adah threw caution to the wind.

One never knew; Francis was carrying a knife today, she told herself – he did use it to threaten her, but she had been so bruised and maltreated that she could not see herself going to work for a week or two. No, the law must step in. Then she looked round the room and saw with tears the radiogram she had just bought with a little deposit off the man at the Crescent; she saw it had been smashed by Francis. She saw the new teaset she was paying for from the landlady's catalogue all broken, the flowery pattern looking pathetically dislocated. No, she needed protection against this type of destruction. Adah had never been to a court before in all her life. All she wanted was for the magistrate or the judge, or whoever it was, to ask Francis to stay away from her and her children. She was not suing for maintenance, she did not even know if she was entitled to any. She simply wanted her safety, and protection for the children.

The wife of the Indian doctor, who was a doctor herself, and who had treated her, had said: 'Next time you might not be so lucky with a man who can beat you like this.' She gave her two weeks off work and told her to spend most of it in bed. Inside the courtroom Adah started to stammer. The doctor had told her to call her and that she would come to give evidence. Adah had thanked her, but did not call her. Suppose they found Francis guilty of assault which was what they were charging him with? What then would she gain by it? They might send him to prison, and what good would that do to her? She should not have worried because Francis showed another side to his character which she had not seen before. All the bruises and cuts and bumps Adah had to show the court were the result of falls. Yes, he

broke her radiogram because he thought it was a chair. He would pay for the repairs. Nobody asked him how he was going to pay, since he was jobless. Adah did not know that they would require so many details. She had never read Law or anything to do with Law, but it was one of Francis's major subjects.

Adah hated courts from that day on. Another thing shook her further. The magistrate said the children had to be maintained, and since Adah had always been the head of the family financially she was given the custody of the children. But how much could Francis afford? Francis said they had never been married. He then asked Adah if she could produce the marriage certificate. Adah could not. She could not even produce her passport and the children's birth certificates. Francis had burnt them all. To him, Adah and the kids ceased to exist. Francis told her this in the court in low tones in their own language. It was then the magistrate knew he was dealing with a very clever person. He said, ""You can say the children are not your own, but you have to contribute to their maintenance. She just can't do it all on her own." Francis replied, 'I don't mind their being sent for adoption.' Something happened to Adah then. It was like a big hope and a kind of energy charging into her, giving her so much strength even though she was physically ill with her fifth child. Then she said very loud and very clear, "Don't worry, sir.

The children are mine, and that is enough. I shall never let them down as long as I am alive.'" She walked out from that court at Clerkenwell and wandered anywhere, not seeing anything, tears flowing from her eyes without stopping, her temperature rising. She never fully recovered from the Big Fight. She arrived in Camden Town, in front of a butcher's shop where they sold cheap chickens. She stood there, not because she was buying any chicken but because she was tired, hungry but without appetite, and feeling like being sick. The tears still flowed. Then a voice cut through the crowd, called her by her Ibo petname ""Nne nna'. The first thought that struck her was that she was dying, because nobody had called her by that name except people who knew her as a little girl, and only her Pa used to call her like that, drawing out every syllable. The voice was very near now and it called again. A man's voice, much too deep to be her Pa's and too gentle to be Francis's. Then she saw the face of the man. Then she remembered, and he remembered.

Required:

- a) Based on this excerpt describe how diaspora literature of Africa embodies the commodification of the female body. **(4 marks)**
- b) Analyse three challenges faced by the African in diaspora as brought out in this excerpt. **(6 marks)**
- c) Evaluate two thematic concerns that the author has explored. **(6 marks)**
- d) Examine three literary devices that the author has used to pass her message to the audience. **(6 marks)**
- e) The move to the diaspora is initiated by numerous causes. Illustrate the truth in this statement based on this excerpt. **(3 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) Examine how digital technologies (blogs, emails, social media, and online forums) function as narrative tools in contemporary African literature of the diaspora. **(9 marks)**
- b) Using any text studied, illustrate the impact of globalization in contemporary African diaspora writing. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) Using three examples, asses how black women's narratives challenge patriarchy in African diaspora literature. **(9 marks)**
- b) The Black woman's body is a site of resistance and survival. Critique this statement with reference to African diasporic literature using any text studied in this course. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) African diaspora literature is a tool for liberation and the claiming of a black identity. Using three examples from texts on African Diaspora Literature defend this statement. **(9 marks)**
- b) Evaluate three thematic concerns of the black arts movement. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) The African diaspora is marked by trauma and survival. Using any text studied in this course, appraise this statement. **(9 marks)**
- b) Without the presence of African Diaspora literature, the literary world would be incomplete. With reference to any two texts studied in these course asses the truth in statement. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) African diaspora literature was born out of the African experience, both in and out of Africa. Critique this statement using any text studied in the course. **(9 marks)**
- b) Analyze three features of language as used by writers of African diaspora literature. **(6 marks)**