***NEW POETRY REVISION SERIES- TERM 3-2024***

***1. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.***

**NIGHT OF THE SCORPION**

I remember the night my mother

was stung by a scorpion. Ten hours

of steady rain had driven him

to crawl beneath a sack of rice.

Parting with his poison-flash

of diabolic tail in the dark room 

he risked the rain again.

The peasants came like swarms of flies

and buzzled the name of God a hundred times

to paralyze the evil one.

With candles and with lanterns

throwing giant scorpion shadows

on the mud-baked walls

they searched for him: he was not found.

They clicked their tongues.

With every movement that the scorpion made

his poison moved in mothers blood, they said

May he sit still, they said.

May the sins of your previous birth

be buried away tonight, they said.

May the sins of evil

balanced in this unreal world.

Against the sum of good

become diminished by your pain.

May the poison purify your flesh

of desire and your spirit of ambition,

they said , and they sat around

on the floor with my mother in the centre,

the peace of understanding on each face.

More candles, more lanterns, more neighbours,

more insects, and the endless rain.

My mother twisted through and through

groaning on a mat.

My father, septic, rationalist,

trying every curse and blessing ,

powder, mixture, herb and hybird.

He even poured a little paraffin

upon

the bitten toe and put a match to it,

I watched the flame feeding on my mother

I watched the holy man perform his rites

to tame the poison with an incantation.

After twenty hours

it lost its sting.

My mother only said,

Thank God the scorpion picked on me

and spared my children.

(Nissin Ezekiel)

**Questions.**

(a) Who is the persona in the poem? ***(2mks)***

(b) Explain at what time of the day the events in this poem take place. ***(2mks****)*

What aspects of communal living does this poem reveal? Illustrate your answers.

***(2mks)***

With evidence from the poem , give the communitys attitude towards scorpion

sting. ***(2mks***

What is the effect of repetition of the word `more` in the poem? **(2mks)**

Identify and illustrate any other two stylistic devices used in the poem. ***(4mks)***

Explain the meaning of the following in the context of the poem. *(****3mks)***

(i) May the poison purify your flesh.

(ii) To tame the poison with incantation

(iii) It lost its sting

(h) What does the last stanza reveal about the character of the mother? ***(2mks)***

***ANSWERS***

*(a) A child / son / daughter (1mk)*

*Illust: Refers to my mother (1mk)*

*(b) At night (1mk)*

*Explanation: The speaker recalls the memorable night the mother was stung by a scorpion / mention of candles and lanterns . (1mk) Total mks (2mks)*

*(c) They live communally / are co-operative / are social. (1mk)*

*Illust. When the mother was stung many peasants / neighbours came and helped in the search for the scorpion . (1mk)*

*- They offered their candle and lanterns and prayed overnight . (1mk)*

*(d) - They take it to be bad omen. (1mk)*

*- They refer to the scorpion as the Evil one*

*Believe that the further the scorpion goes the more the poison moves into the mothers blood*

*They pray to paralyze the scorpion*

*The mother has to be cleansed*

*Accept any explanation 1mk Total (2mks)*

*(e) - Used to emphasise / stress (1mk)*

*- The large number of neighbours carrying lanterns.(1mk )Total mk (2mks)*

*- Personification - The scorpion referred to as him*

*Simile - The peasants came like swarms of flies*

*Repetition May the ---- I watched ..*

*(Accept any two devices) 1 mk for indent 1 mk for illust.*

*- Instead of leading to her condemnation may the poison give her healthy body*

*Trying to stop the pain to the poison by praying*

*It stopped paining her*

*(h) - She is loving / caring /concerned / devoted (1mk)*

*- Her greatest joy is that her children had been spared from being bitten (1mk)*

***2. POETRY***

***Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.***

*THE BEARD By Proscovia Rwakyaka*

*In the pulpit he swayed and turned*

*Leaned forward, backward*

*His solemn voice echoed,*

*Lowly the congregation followed;*

*Do you love your neighbour?*

*Meekly they bow at his keen eye*

*Now examining a grey head*

*Hearing under her sobs.*

*His heart kept assured-*

*Her sins weigh on her*

*So with her he chats outside;*

*Weep not, child you are pardoned,*

*But sir, your beard conjured up*

*The spirit of my dead goat!*

*Identify and describe two speakers in this poem. Illustrate your answer with evidence from the poem. (4mks)*

*Relate the title of the poem to what exactly happens in this poem, supporting your answer with specific examples from it. (4mks)*

*Referring closely to the poem, identify and explain how the poet develops any two moods in the poem. (8mks)*

*Comment on the lines*

*His heart kept assured*

*Her sins weigh on her.*

***ANSWERS***

*(a) - A preacher / pastor / priest / evangelist. (1)*

*- Stands in the pulpit, preaching on love/against sin. (1)*

*- An old woman / member of the congregation. (1)*

*- Addresses the preacher after the sermon / service / giving reason for her weeping.(1)*

*1 mark for identification and, 1 mark for illustration ; Illustration alone doesnt*

*score.*

*(b) - The preacher has a beard.*

*- The old woman /gray-haired lady is reminded of her dead goat that had a similar*

*beard.*

*- Hence it is the beard that brings misunderstanding and the irony in the poem.*

*Any two relevant explanations; 2 marks each.*

*(c) Mood of joy*

*- The poet presents the preacher preaching laboriously, so he is pleased to see the*

*results-*

*- One sinner repentant crying. Hence his joy.*

*Serious/solemn mood*

*- Prevails in the church as a result the preachers dramatic preaching;--- he swayed*

*and turned, leaned forward, backward --- so they meekly follow him.*

*Humiliation/embarrassment mood*

*- On the part of the preacher after realising / knowing why the woman weeps i.e she is still thinking of a completely different thing her dead goat.*

*Identification of mood 1 mark each ; Explanation 3 marks*

*(d) His heart leapt assured”*

*Expresses the speakers mood of joy (1)*

*That his message is reaching home / has created deep impact / communicating effectively.*

*He thinks his message makes the old woman sob (1)*

*Her sins weigh on her expresses the speakers thoughts / attitude towards the old woman (1) ---- that she is repentant and that her sins weigh on her, i.e oppresses her heart. (1)*

*Any four relevant explanations: 4 marks*

*3. Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.*

*When with prophetic eye I peer in the future*

*I see that I shall perish upon this road*

*Driving men that I do not know.*

*This metallic monster that now I*

*Dictate*

*This docile elaborate horse,*

*That in silence seems to simmer and*

*Strain*

*Shall surely revolt some tempting day.*

*Thus I shall die; not that I care*

*For any mans journey,*

*Nor for proprietors gain*

*Nor yet for love of my own*

*Not for these do I attempt the forbidden*

*Limits*

*For these defy the traffic man and the*

*Cold cell,*

*Risking everything for the little*

*More*

*They shall say, I know who pick up my*

*Bones,*

*Poor chap, another victim to the ruthless machine*

*Concealing my blood under the metal.*

*Questions*

*a. Whose point of view is this poem written? (2mks)*

*b. What risk does the taxi driver take? (3 mks)*

*c. For what reason does the taxi driver do this job despite the risk? (1 mk)*

*d. What is the attitude of the taxi driver towards this job? (4 mks)*

*e. Illustrate three styles used in this poem (6 mks)*

*f. Explain the following words and expressions as used in the poem (4mks)*

*(i) I peer in the future*

*(ii)This metallic monster*

*(iii) Shall surely revolt some tempting day*

*(iv) Little little more. (3mks)*

***ANSWERS***

*(a) The taxi driver e.g driving men I do not know*

*N.B. 1mk for identification 1mk for illustration (Total 2mks)*

*(b) Over speeding*

*Defying the traffic police*

*Defying the cell*

*N.B Expect three risks 1mk each (Total 3 mks)*

*(c) For little extra money 1 mk*

*(d). A source of income e.g. risking everything for the little more*

*Risky e.g. risking everything for the little more*

*Resigned e.g. not that I care.*

*N.B Expect 2 attitudes 2mks and another 2mks for illustrations (Total 4 mks)*

*(e). Metaphor e.g. this docile elaborate horse*

*Direct speech e.g. poor chap*

*Personification e.g. shall surely revolt some tempting day.*

*Repetition e.g. nor for, nor yet*

*N.B Expect 3 styles 1mk each, 3 illustrations 1mk each (Total 6 mks)*

*(f). (i.) See with difficulty into the future*

*(ii) The taxi that is destructive*

*(iii) The taxi shall cause an accident*

*(iv) Little more money.*

*Total 4 mks*

*4. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.*

*I WANT TO BE A DRUM*

*Jose Craveirinha*

*The drum is worth with cry*

*Oh! Ancient God of men*

*Let me be a drum*

*Body and soul just a drum*

*Just a drum in the hot night of the tropics*

*And not a flower born in the forest of despair*

*Nor a river running to the ocean of despair*

*Nor as assegai tempered in the living fire of despair*

*Nor anything*

*Just a drum worn with its cry in the full moon*

*Of my land*

*Just a drum shattering the bitter silence of my land*

*Just a drum hollowed in the hard-wood of my land*

*Eu!*

*Just a drum shattering the bitter silence of Motalala*

*Just a drum worn with bleeding the fatigue*

*Of my people*

*Just a drum lost in the darkness of the night*

*Ancient God of men*

*I want to be a drum*

*And not a river*

*A flower*

*An assegai at this moment*

*Nor even poetry*

*Just a drum echoing the song of lifes forces*

*A drum night and day*

*Day and night just a drum*

*Until the consummation of the great fiesta of batugue*

*Oh ancient god of men*

*Let me be a drum*

*Just a drum*

*QUESTIONS*

*(a) State and illustrate fully the themes in the poem (4mks)*

*(b) Explain the significance of the title in relation to the poem (3mks)*

*(c) Why do you think the persona wants to be a drum? (3mks)*

*(d) Discuss the relevance of the second stanza to the rest of the poem (3mks)*

*(e) Name one sound poetic device used in the poem and explain its significance (2mks)*

*(f) What is the mood in this poem? Explain how this mood is brought out (4mks)*

*(g) Give another suitable title to this poem (1mk)*

*ANSWERS*

*(a) Rebellion*

*- Change*

*- Pain/suffering (4 mks)*

*(b) I want to be a drum The persona wants to be heard. Doesnt want to be dormant, silent, to sit back.*

*(c) One who doesnt want to be docile/wants to rumble and be heard not a flower*

*(3 mks)*

*(d) Persona has had enough of docility/despair/is fed up with being quiet/silent and wants to speak out/to be heard (3 mks)*

*2nd stanza mentions other things that have been tried out but which to the persona, have failed to produce good results i.e. despair, docility.*

*feels docile/silence has failed*

*poet wants the opposite speech/sound (drum the only hope is optimistic that this will bear fruit (3 mks)*

*(e) - Repetition emphasis a drum*

*Alliteration emphasis river, running (2 mks)*

*(f) - Sad everything has failed*

*optimistic feels that there is hope*

*(g) Supplicative/prayerful will work I want to be a drum. (1 mk)*

***5. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.***

*There she lay in a pool of blood*

*Speared and maimed*

*Mute and lifeless,*

*Base and worthless*

*There she lay, the butchered woman,*

*The butchered woman, the daughter of a chief,*

*The daughter of a chief, the town beauty*

*Silenced by the age of a spear.*

*She lay in a pool of blood, nude as she was born*

*Fierce, as if hours ago not lovely to touch,*

*Already beginning to steam like fresh dung*

*No one knew she was a daughter of a chief.*

*She lay mid a group of frightened women,*

*Women who were mad with grief*

*Men that were there fumed with fury*

*That a beauty should enter the ground so young.*

*There she lay, silenced for ever*

*With her beauty crossed,*

*Her eyes for ever shut to the world,*

*Soon the ground was to swallow her.*

*QUESTIONS.*

*(i). What is the poem talking about? (4mks)*

*(ii) What is the poets attitude toward death? (4mks)*

*(iii) Illustrate 3 poetic styles used in this poem (6mks)*

*(iv) What is the mood of this poem? (2mks)*

*(v) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the poem. (4mks)*

*(vi) The butchered woman*

*(vii) That beauty should enter the ground so young.*

*(viii) With her beauty crossed*

*(ix) Soon the ground was to swallow her.*

*ANSWERS*

*(i) - Talks about the murder / of the young beautiful / daughter of a chief/ and the effect*

*it has on the people: fright, grief and fury. (4mks)*

*- It brings sorrow eg. women who were mad with grief.*

*- It brings fear eg. she lay mid a group of frightened women*

*- It causes anger eg. men who were there fumed with fury.*

*(ii) - Death is the final thing eg. Her eyes forever shut to the world.*

*- Death destroys beauty eg with her beauty crossed eg. Fierce, as if hours ago not lovely to touch.*

*NB/ expect any 4 illustrated attitudes, 1 mk each. Total 4mks. no mark for*

*attitude without illustration.*

*iii - Repetition eg the butchered woman*

*- Personification eg. silenced by the rage of a spear*

*- Simile eg Already beginning to steam like a fresh cow drink*

*- Alliteration eg Fumed with fury*

*- Contrast eg. Fierce, as if hours ago not lovely to touch.*

*NB/ Any 3 styles 3mks. 3 illustrations 3mks Total 3 mks.*

*- Sad/angry eg. women who were mad with grief*

*eg. Men who were there fumed with fury.*

*NB/ 1 mark for identification of mood, 1mk for illustration. Total 2mks.*

*(v) (i) The murdered daughter of a chief*

*(ii) That a beautiful woman should die so young*

*(iii) Her beauty disfigured*

*(iv) Soon she was to be buried.*

***6. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow:***

*Footpath*

*Path let Leaving home, leading out*

*Return my mother to me.*

*The sun is sinking and darkness coming,*

*Hens and cocks are already inside and babies drowsing,*

*Return my mother to me.*

*We do not have firewood and I have not seen the lantern,*

*There is no more food and the water has run out*

*Path let me pray, you return my mother to me.*

*Path of the small hills, path of the small stones*

*Path of slipperiness, path of the mud*

*Return my mother to me.*

*Path of papyrus, path of the rivers*

*Path of small forests, path of reeds*

*Return my mother to me*

*Path, I implore you, return my mother to me*

*Path of the crossways, path that branches off,*

*Path of the stringing shrubs, path of the bridge*

*Return my mother to me*

*Path of the open, path of the valley*

*Path of the steep climb, path of the downward slope*

*Return my mother to me.*

*Children are drowsing about to sleep,*

*Darkness is coming and there is no firewood,*

*And I have not found the lantern;*

*Return my mother to me.*

*Stella Ngatho.*

*Questions:*

*Who is the persona in this poem? Why? (2mks)*

*Identify and explain the effectiveness of any two stylistic devices. (6mks)*

*What is the tone of the poem? (2mks)*

*What is the mood of the poem? (2mks)*

*Comment on the title of the poem. (2mks)*

*Explain the meaning of the following lines in the poem:*

*Path let .. leaving home, leading out.*

*Return my mother to me,*

*The sun is sinking and darkness coming.. (3mks)*

*Path of the cross ways, path that branches off*

*Path of the stinging shrubs, path of the bridge*

*Return my mother to me. (3mks)*

*ANSWERS*

*(i) The persona is a child perhaps an older child whose mother is away. The child is longing for her return. Return my mother to me. (2mks)*

*Repetition Path is repeated severally, to create the tone of the poem.*

*Personification the paths are personified, the speaker begs them to return the mother.*

*(Expect the two plus any other style well illustrated + the effectiveness 3marks for each.*

*No mark lack of one of these).*

*The poem is in a pleading / imploring / beseeching tone. ..Path, I implore you, return*

*my mother to me. (2mks)*

*The poem is in a sad mood. One feels sad at the concern and despair of the child who pleads for the mothers return. (2mks)*

*The title leads us to the events in the poem. The persona addresses the footpath requested it to return the mother. (2mks)*

*(a) The persona requests all the paths / she eagerly longs to see her mother to come*

*back through the same paths she departed on. (3mks)*

*(b) The persona mention different types of paths, the paths he / she imagines the mother took on her way home to give back the mother. (3mks)*

*7. Read the following poem and answer the questions which follow.*

***The masqueraders***

*When the crocodile crunches its prey*

*Is it pity or pain that moves it to tear?*

*When a dog crushes bones to nothingness,*

*Is it remorse that makes it weep?*

*Brides weep on their wedding days.)*

*In this unsung and songless age,*

*We wear masks during the day,*

*We wear ourselves inside out,*

*To avoid the prying rays of the sun*

*That focus our action into question marks.*

*On this turbulent and shoreless sea,*

*We huddle together like rejected spirits*

*Revealing our essence to the shy moon*

*Like night-runners that have no shame*

*Betraying their secrets to the virgin sky*

*We wear ourselves the right side out*

*To show the stars that we grudge the sun.*

*Even our relationship with our neighbours*

*It punctuated with calculated apologies*

*Our accomplises proudly quip Is all right*

*We are not satisfied with reality*

*Our natural port is artificiality*

*In this unmourned unmorning age,*

*We stand at dusk with downcast eyes.*

*(Like bats ready for the midnight flight)*

*Swallowing flatteries and condoning pretences,*

*Mortgaging our substance for our shadows,*

*Even the destitutes embrace our plight*

*They complete with glee to subsidize the rich*

*Scorning the meaningless myth of the common man.*

*We love shadows*

*they are unreal*

*We wear rubber teeth*

*they cant bite!*

*We walk at might*

*to mingle with the dead.*

*We disregard the moon because it wont scream*

*We regard our lives as an endless dream.*

*Richard Ntiru.*

*Who are the masqueraders? (2mks)*

*What is the attitude of the poet towards the masqueraders? (2mks)*

*Pick out three stylistic devices employed in the poem and explain their effectiveness in the poem. (6mks)*

*What is the meaning of the following terms in ordinary language?*

*Mortgaging our substance for our shadows,*

*Even the destitutes embrace our plight: (3mks)*

*We huddle together like rejected spirits*

*Revealing our essence to the shy moon (3mks)*

*Give the meaning of Stanza 6 (lines 31 to 36). (2mks)*

*What is the relationship between the persona and the subject of the poem. (2mks)*

*Oral Literature (20mks)*

*(a) (i) State the difference between riddles and proverbs. (4mks)*

*(ii) Write a riddle from your community, translate it and give the parts of the riddle.*

*(5mks)*

*(iii) For what audience is this riddle suitable: Why? (1mk)*

*(b) What makes a song more interesting when it is performed than when it is read? (4mks)*

*(c) Give three difficulties you are likely to encounter when collecting oral literature material. How can these problems be solved? (6mks)*

*ANSWERS*

*The pretenders. People who want to live in pretences, they do not condone truth, prefer shadows to real beings i.e. are unrealistic. (2mks)*

*Scornful.*

*In the second last paragraph the poet seems to scorn the masqueraders by satirising their love for entopic things, things that would give satisfaction not for their worth but because they shield us from truth.*

*(a) Similes e.g. we huddle together like rejected spirits*

*Like night runners we have no shame*

*These give a clear picture of what the masqueraders are the poet does this by making use of things we encounter oftenly in society.*

*Rhetoric questions e.g. Is, it pity or pain that moves it to tears?, Is it remorse that makes it weep?. These questions involve the reader / audience in the performance. Hes given an opportunity to jog his mind abit.*

*Satire the poet satires the masqueraders in his quest to portray them as being unrealistic as revealed in the second last stanza and.. Brides weep on their wedding days --- etc this brings out the tone of the poem as being scornful.*

*Expect these three plus any other. 1mark for the style and another for the illustration. No mark for style without illustration and vice versa. If the effectiveness is lacking, no mark.*

*The masqueraders prefer shadows to our real beings because shadows can witness all that they do and say without uttering anything. Those who have no money, food (the poor) have also taken up this mentality.*

*At night the masqueraders do all sorts of weird things because they know that it is not very bright the moon doesnt generate as much light as the sun. (3mks)*

*The masqueraders prefer things that dont have much significance to the significant such as shadows to real beings, rubber teeth to the real teeth and day to night since these dont place their actions in focus. (2mks)*

*The persona is among the masqueraders. He looks at himself as part of the subject and that is why there is the extensive use of the 1st person pronouns for reference items e.g. our, me, etc. (2mks)*

*8. Read the following poem and questions that follow.*

*THE OWL*

*Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not stawed*

*Cold, yet had heat within me that was proof*

*Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest*

*Had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.*

*Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest*

*Knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I*

*All of the night was quite barred out except*

*An owls cry, a most melancholy cry*

*Shaken out long and clear upon the hill,*

*No merry note, nor cause of merriment*

*But one telling me plain what I escaped*

*And others could not, that night, as in I went*

*And salted was my food, and may response,*

*Salted and sobered, too, by the birds voice*

*Speaking for all who lay under the stars,*

*Soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice*

*Edward Thomas.*

*The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is:*

*Stawed A*

*Proof B*

*Rest C*

*Roof B*

*What is the rhyme scheme of the other stanzas? 6mks*

*What is the poet saying in stanzas 1 and 2? Explain in your own words. 2mks*

*Give any three stylistic devices used in the poem. Illustrate your answer. 6mks*

*What do you think is the relationship between the title and what the poet is saying? 2mks*

*Who is the persona in the poem? 1mks*

*What is the theme of the poem? 2mks*

*Describe the mood of the poem. 4mks*

*What other title do you think would be suitable for this poem? Give reason(s) 2mks*

*ANSWERS*

*1. i) Stanza 2 : C Stanza 3: E Stanza 4: F*

*D C G*

*C A H*

*D C G*

*2mks 2mks 2mks*

*a) In stanza one, the poet is telling us the condition of his body after the journey ie very tired,*

*not very hungry and not freezing from the cold.*

*In stanza two, the poet is telling us how at the inn, his problems were catered for ie he was given food, a fire and a place to rest, and that during the night, it was very quiet except for the owls cry. 1mk*

*Stylistic devices used in the poem include:*

*The rhyme scheme eg. 1mk*

*Stanza 1 : A Stanza 2: C Stanza 4: E Stanza 4: F*

*B D C G*

*C C A H*

*B D C G*

*Alliteration eg 1mk*

*Had, heat (Stanza 1; line 2)*

*How, hungry (Stanza 2, line e)*

*Food, fire ( Stanza 2 line 1)*

*Repetition e.g 1mk*

*Salted - repeated in the last stanza to emphasize how the persona lost interest in the food*

*form the birds cry that reminded him of the poor and the soldiers out in the cold*

*that night without food.*

*The owl is related to the poets grievances ironically, ie inspite of the comfort he had received through food, fire and rest, the owls cry reminded him of the fate of the others he had escaped from up the bill, thus, taking away his appetite and comfort. 1mk*

*A runaway soldier / captive Or the traveller*

*a) Escapism - the poet has run away from the others camped up the hill for his own safety. Or*

*b) Guilt - the poet ran away from the others to seek comfort at the inn, ironically, the owls*

*cry reminds him of what the others are going through and he suffers from*

*reproach (guilt)*

*Or any other suitable theme + illustration = 2mks*

*The mood is sentimental ie the poets heart is reached out to the poor and others suffering in the open sky that he looses his comfort and appetite at the inn. 4mks*

*The Runaway / The traveller 1mk*

*Because, hes run away from others / hes been travelling down the hill and from the description in stanza one we know what hes feeling like. 1mk*

*9. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.*

*WHERE IS YOUR GOLDMINE?*

*Yes, tell us*

*Tell us where it is situated*

*Your goldmine that never runs dry*

*That feeds you with shining gold*

*To keep you in the millionaire city.*

*Tell us from where you mine your gold all day long*

*To make another stride away from the millionaire city*

*With the wake of everyday*

*Your eyes greedily fixed to the city ahead*

*The magnificent billionaire city.*

*Their eyes are down cast*

*Anger simmers in their dry*

*Sunken sockets*

*The eyes of the many*

*Whose lips are not in your favour*

*Whose curses are spat on you*

*To whom your sight spells danger*

*Their common talk bears meaning*

*How much do you get as a director?*

*Their inflated estimate goes to twenty thousand shillings*

*Tell us where twenty thousand shillings bought a limousine*

*And built ten tourist hotels in the city*

*Tell us when it bought a private plane*

*Tell us when it built a multi-million mansion*

*Yes, tell us.*

*Tell us where your goldmine is*

*So that we can make an early gold rush*

*So that we can join you in the millionaire city*

*And never will our lips be against you*

*Our curses on you shall fade*

*As the hands of all shall dig into the earth*

*To prospect for gold in plenty*

*In the rush to millionaire city.*

*Questions:*

*a. i) Who is being addressed in the poem? 2mks*

*ii) What is the poet attitude towards the you? 2mks*

*b i) Identify two rhetoric questions and discuss their use in the poem. 4mks*

*ii) What is the effect of repetition in the poem? 4mks*

*c. Identify and illustrate any two themes brought out in the poem. 4mks*

*d. Explain the meaning of the following as used in the poem*

*i) Whose lips are not in your favour. 2mks*

*ii) Your goldmine that never runs dry*

*ANSWERS*

*1. POETRY.*

*i) - A corrupt politician*

*a corrupt civil servant*

*a corrupt person in a government position*

*1 mk any of the above)*

*He lives beyond his means or earnings. tell us where 20,000 bought a Limousine.*

*ii) - The poet is critical / scornful / satirical / bitter/ provocative towards the year.*

*1mk for identification)*

*he asks him to show him where the goldmine is so that they can join in*

*1 mk for illustration*

*total = 2mks*

*i) 1. Where is your goldmine? 1mk*

*2. How much do you earn as a director? 1mk*

*Illustration.*

*It is used to effect ridicule and to express the poets doubts / suspicion over the existence of a goldmine.*

*It also ridicules and expresses disgust at the you in the poem. 1mk*

*Total 4mks*

*ii) Repetition: Tell us.. 1mk*

*Illustration: It emphases (1mk) the poets feelings of betrayal 1mk*

*And denial 1mk total 4mks*

*(NB: No mark if repeated line is not quoted.*

*Corruption (Greed / selfishness 1mk*

*2. Poverty / want / Envy / inequality: 1mk*

*the you is contrasted with the poor / deprived who are angry and emaciated at the lack of their basic needs. 1mk*

***10. Read the poem below and then answer the question that follow.***

*There is a little hut*

*Built across from here;*

*Theyve mudded two walls*

*And the rest stands unmade.*

*For they ran out of mud.*

*There is a deep gully*

*Running along the road;*

*They have filled it halfway*

*And the rest is still gaping*

*For they ran out of mud.*

*There is a pot by the altar*

*That they began to mould;-They finished the base*

*But the neck remains undone*

*For they ran out of mud.*

*Mud! Mud!*

*Who can find mud?*

*May be if it were gold*

*Someone would.*

*Questions*

*a) What is the poem about? (4 marks)*

*b) What do the following physical objects represent? (6 marks)*

*(i) The hut*

*.*

*(ii) The deep gully running along the road*

*(iii) The pot by the altar*

*.*

*c) Explain irony in the last stanza (2 marks)*

*.*

*d) Why does the persona refer to they rather than ? (3 marks)*

*e) Identify and explain the tone used in the poem. (3 marks)*

*f) Apart from irony, identify any other stylistic device used in the poem. (2 marks)*

***11. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow(20 Marks***

*AFTER THE WAR*

*The outcome? Conflicting rumours*

*As to what faction murdered*

*The one man who, had he survived*

*Might have ruled us without corruption.*

*Not that it matters now:*

*Were busy collecting the dead.*

*Counting them, hard through it is*

*To be sure what side they were on*

*Whats left of their bodies and faces*

*Tells of no need but for burial*

*And mutilation was practiced*

*By right, left and centre alike.*

*As for the children and women*

*Who knows what they wanted*

*Apart from the usual things?*

*Food is scarce now, and men are scarce*

*Whole villages burnt to the ground*

*New cities in disrepair.*

*Their war is over. Somebody must have won.*

*Somebody will have won. When peace is declared.*

*a. According to the poem what are the consequences of war?*

*4 Marks*

*b. What techniques has the poet employed and of what effect are they?*

*6 Marks*

*c. What is the poets attitude towards war?*

*2 Marks*

*d. What meanings do the following lines convey?*

*i. Food is scarce now, and men are scarce.*

*2 Marks*

*ii. Whole villages burnt to the ground.*

*2 Marks*

*e. From the poem, why would you say that war is a no win situation?*

*2 marks*

*f. What is the poets mood?*

***12. Read the following poem and questions that follow.***

*When my friend sees me*

*He swells and pants like a frog*

*Because I talk the wisdom of the bush!*

*He says we from the bush*

*Do not understand civilized ways*

*For we tell our women*

*To keep the hem of their dresses*

*Below the knee.*

*We from the bush, my friend insists,*

*Do not know how to enjoy:*

*When we come to the civilized city,*

*Like nuns, we stay away from nightclubs*

*Where women belong to no men*

*And men belong to no women*

*And these civilized people*

*Quarrel and fight like hungry lions!*

*But, my friend, why do men*

*With crippled legs, lifeless eyes,*

*Wooden legs, empty stomachs*

*Wander about the streets*

*Of this civilized world?*

*Teach me, my friend, the trick,*

*So that my eyes may not*

*See those whose houses have no walls*

*But emptiness all around;*

*Show me the wax you use*

*To seal your ears*

*To stop hearing the cry of the hungry;*

*Teach me the new wisdom*

*Which tells men*

*To talk about money and not love,*

*When they meet women;*

*Tell your God to convert*

*Me to the faith of the indifferent,*

*The faith of those*

*Who will never listen until*

*They are shaken with blows.*

*I speak for the bush:*

*You speak for the civilized*

*Will you hear me?*

*(i) State the two societies mentioned in the poem. (2mks)*

*(ii) the imagery used in the poem. (2mks)*

*(iii) How has the poet used the word friend in the poem? (2mks)*

*(iv) What is the message of this poem? (4mks)*

*(v) What is personas attitude toward the friend? (2mks)*

*(vi) Explain the tone of this poem. (2mks)*

*(vii) Explain why the persona does not admire the civilized world. (4mks)*

*(viii) Explain the following words as used in the poem.*

*(i) the wisdom of the bush*

*(ii) They are shaken by blows*

*13.Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow (20mks)*

***I Speak for the Bush, By Everet Standa***

*When my friend sees me*

*He swells and pants like a frog*

*Because I talk the wisdom of the bush*

*He says we from the bush*

*Do not understand civilized ways*

*For we tell our women*

*To keep the hem of their dresses*

*Below the knee*

*We from the bush, my friend insists*

*Do not know how to enjoy*

*When we come to the civilized city,*

*Like nuns, we stay away from night clubs*

*Where women belong to no men*

*And men belong to no women*

*And these civilized people*

*Quarrel and fight like hungry lions!*

*But, my friend, why do men*

*With crippled legs, lifeless eyes,*

*Wooden legs, empty stomachs*

*Wonder about the streets*

*of this civilized world?*

*Teach me, my friend, the trick*

*So that my eyes may not*

*See those whose houses have no walls*

*But emptiness all around;*

*Show me the wax you use*

*To seal your ears*

*To stop hearing the cry of the hungry*

*Teach me the new wisdom*

*Which tells men*

*To talk about money and not love*

*When they meet women*

*Tell your God to convert*

*me to the faith of the indifferent*

*The faith of those*

*who will never listen until*

*They are shaken with blows*

*I speak for the bush*

*You speak for the civilized*

*will you hear me?*

*QUESTIONS*

*Who is the persona in the poem? (2mks)*

*.......*

*List down three differences between I and my friend (3mks)*

*...............*

*Identify and explain any three images used in the poem (6mks)*

*...........................*

*What three problems do people face in the civilized city? (3mks)*

*...................*

*What is the attitude of the persona towards the civilized? (2mks)*

*................*

*Describe the tone of this poem. (2mks)*

*....................*

*Rewrite the last stanza as one sentence (2mks)*

*14. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow*

***This House We Built***

*This house we built*

*With the sweat of our veins*

*And the genius of our brains*

*Has crumbled*

*Crumbled like a rickety ship*

*Hit by a gale in the high seas*

*This house we built*

*Was for all of us:*

*Old and young,*

*Fat and thin-*

*But alas!*

*It was never to be!*

*It is only the few fat ones*

*Who sit around the glowing, flaming fire,*

*Belching ignominously*

*While the many thin ones*

*With tiny, trembling, bony bodies,*

*And chattering teeth*

*Cower*

*Crestfallen*

*In the periphery*

*Miles away from*

*The enticing warmth of the fire.*

*This house we built*

*Has been spoilt*

*To the hilt:*

*It has gaping holes in its walls;*

*Termites and ants, and weevils*

*Now feast,*

*In Haste,*

*Unhindered, upon its once sturdy foundation.*

*This house we built*

*Is in dire need of repair, renovation, and refurbishment:*

*The floor needs recarpeting,*

*The roof cries for re patching:*

*Lets get rid of the lice in our feet,*

*And the termites and ants and weevils,*

*And revitalize the pillars*

*Of this house we built.*

*Questions*

*a) What is the poem about? (3mks)*

*b) Who is the persona and what is his relationship to the house (3mks)*

*c) Identify and comment on the effectiveness of any three poetic devices used in this poem (6mks)*

*d) With illustration from the poem, explain the attitude of the persona towards the few fat ones*

*(4mks)*

*e) With evidence from the poem, explain the tone of the speaker (2mks)*

*f) What is the mood of the poem? (2mks)*

*15. Read the following poem and questions that follow.*

*THE TROUBLED WARRIOR By Alexander Muigai (20 MARKS)*

*Ill put down my hoe*

*Let them call me lazy*

*Ill lay aside my stick*

*Let my cattle rove alone*

*Ill bid farewell my girl*

*And my laughing sister*

*Despite their sweet tears*

*Ill part from my younger brother*

*Then ill go and kneel down*

*Before the two heaps of stones*

*Where my parents lie;*

*Ill plead with them to call*

*The blessings of their gods*

*On me, a troubled youth*

*Before I go in the pursuit.*

*Then I'll gird my loin-cloth*

*Sling my bow and the sword*

*Of my clan spear in hand*

*I'll go to face the foe*

*The dewy grass shall be;*

*My couch; on the cold rock*

*My head shall rest;*

*The damp night air shall blanket me*

*And to the wild beast*

*Ill be a guest*

*I will drink from the wandering stream*

*Suck on wild fruits*

*Till I have faced my foe*

*I'll be ashamed to face my home*

*Courage hate and my enemy's fate*

*Drive me on. Mighty he stands*

*But curse be on me if*

*I show him my naked heels:*

*No! Never, never!*

*Come, death before surrender*

*But I'll slay -him-this I know.*

*Then I'll dry my bleeding*

*Sword on thirsty tongue;*

*And proclaim victory*

*The will of my fathers*

*Thus, all having been done,*

*And my poor heart settled*

*Ill venture to go home.*

*I'll take up my hoe and dig*

*Ill pick up my stick and herd;*

*Ill court my girl and wed,*

*Having done my duty.*

*Questions*

*Briefly explain the subject matter of this poem. (4mks)*

*According to the second stanza, state the challenges which the persona is likely to face (3mks)*

*What drives the warrior to face his foe without retreating? (2mks)*

*Discuss the relevance of the title. "The Troubled Warrior". (3mks)*

*Describe two character traits of the persona in this poem (4mks)*

*Explain the meaning of the following lines:*

*Then Ill go and kneel down before the heaps of stones (2mks)*

*The damp night air shall blanket me (2mks)*

*16.* **Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.**

**TWICE POORER**

Looks of despair showed

on the gloomy faces,

as he lay on his death bed

life sneaking out of him.

His heart drew to a stop

and a stampede ensued,

as women scramble out

to announce his departure.

You could detect

some hollow wails

in the frenzy.

They poured into the home

some drawn by deep sorrow

others propelled

by prospective feasting.

Interminable rituals

followed the three days

of heightened sorrow,

as mourners brought

famed musicians.

Days and nights

drummed and sang away,

to fascinate him

despite the earth on his

chest.

some came

to help drain the pool

of grief

but had eyes screwed on property

to determine portability.

J.K Agunda.

Describe the poets feelings towards the mourners. (3mks)

**Explain** the irony of the situation presented in this poem. (3mks)

..

With illustrations describe **two** character traits of the mourners. (4mks)

Identify and explain how **two** metaphors have been used in the poem. (4mks)

Explain the meaning of the following lines in the context of the whole poem. (6mks)

some holler wails (line 10)

to determine portability(line 30)

Interminable rituals (line 16)

17. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

I My husband rejects me

Because he says

That I am a mere pagan

And I believe in the devil.

He says

I do not know

The rules of health,

And I mix up

Matters of health and superstition

II Ocol troubles my head.

He talks too much

And he heaps insults on me

As well as my relatives

III But most of his words are senseless,

They are like songs

Of childrens plays

And he treats his clansmen

As if they are enemies.

Ocol behaves

As if he is a witch!

IV It is true

White mans medicines are strong,

But Acoli medicines

Are also strong

V The sick get cured

Because his time has not yet come:

But when the day has dawned

For the journey to Pagak

No one can stop you,

White mans medicines

Acoli medicines

Acoli medicines,

Crucifixes, rosaries,

Toes of edible rats,

The horn of the rhinoceros

None of them can block the path

That goes to Pagak!

VI When death comes

To fetch you

She comes unannounced,

She comes suddenly

Like the vomit of dogs,

And when she comes

The wind keeps blowing

The birds go on singing

And the flowers

Do not hang their heads.

The agoya comes afterwards,

He sings to tell

That death has been that way!

VII When Mother Death comes

She whispers

Comes,

And you stand up

And follow

You get up immediately,

And you start walking

Without brushing the dust

On your buttocks

VIII You may be behind

A new buffalo-hide shield,

And at the mock-fight

Or in battle

You may be matchless.

IX You may be hiding

In the hole

Of the smallest black insect,

Or in the darkest place

Where rats breast-feed their puppies,

Or behind the Agoro hills

Questions

(i) Who is the persona in the poem? (2mks)

.

(ii) Give reasons why the persona blames Ocoli; (2mks)

.

(iii) What things do people use to ward off death? Are these things effective? (2mks)

.

(iv) What do you understand by the following lines (2mks)

(i) the wind keeps blowing

.

(ii) for the journey to Pagak

.

(iii) And the flowers

.

(iv) Do not hang their heads (line 43 to 46)

.

(v) The writer starts with one theme which leads to another. What are the two themes? (2mks)

..

(vi) What is the attitude of the persona towards the subject matter? (2mks)

.

(vii) Identify and explain the mood of the poem (2mks)

.

(viii) Identify and explain the effectiveness of any two stylistic techniques employed in the above poem

(6mks)

...

*18.* **Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow**

One weeping forest, under the wing of the evening,

The night all black, has gone to rest happy;

In the sky the stars have fled trembling,

Fireflies which shine vaguely and put out their lights;

On high the moon is dark; its white light is put out

The spirits are wandering,

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

In the frightened forest the tree sleeps, the leaves are dead,

The monkeys have closed their eyes, hanging on the branches on high,

The antelopes slip past with silent steps

Eat fresh grass, prick their ears attentively,

Lift their heads and listened frightened.

The cicada is silent and stops his grinding song.

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

In the forest lashed by that great rain,

Father elephant walks away heavily: baou, baou,

Careless without fear, sure of his strength,

Father elephant whom no one can vanquish

Among the trees which he breaks, he stops and starts again.

He eats, roars, overturns the trees and seeks his mate.

Father elephant, you have been heard from afar

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

In the forest where no one passes but you,

Hunter, lift up your heart. Leap and walk

Meat is in front of you, the huge piece of meat,

The meat which makes glad the heart,

The meat which walks like a hill,

The meat that will roast on the hearth,

The fine red meat, and the blood that is drunk smoking.

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

Elephant  hunter, take your bow

**Questions**

What is the poem about? (2mks)

When is the poem performed? (2mks)

Describe different feelings about the night as expressed by the persona. (4mks)

Identify THREE stylistic devices used in the poem and give their illustrations. (6mks)

What is the personas attitude towards the hunter? (2mks)

Describe the peoples feelings as they wait for the meat? (2mks)

Explain the meaning of the following lines:

Fireflies which shine vaguely and put out their light (1mk)

Meat that walks like a hill (1mk)

What is the function of this oral poem? (1mk)

*19. READ THE POEM BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:*

*(20 marks)*

*MISSING AND WANTED by B. Agongaz*

*Mary my daughter*

*She was dark, when she was young,*

*In fact, she had a lot of colour a lot of pigment,*

*Tall, full body and stately carriage,*

*A fine pair of whole fulsome lips under*

*A snub shaped African nose,*

*A village belle she was - she was beautiful.*

*But now like the adder,*

*The top layer of her skin is off*

*And she now looks like a pitiable returnee from*

*The leper colony,*

*Her dark African lips are red like a raw*

*Tropical ulcer,*

*Her shiny nails look like talons of some*

*Unknown scavenger in a savanna wilderness.*

*She is my first and only child,*

*She was a student at the college of Christs knowledge,*

*She was last seen on a Saturday night outside*

*Safari hotel, with the parish priest,*

*She had on a pair of red trousers in a pair of straps*

*Of leather for shoes. On her head, was hair of dead horse*

*Long rotten*

*Those who tried to talk with her say her reply is: I have been*

*Our elders used to say*

*A missing dog hears not the whistle of the hunter*

*But if by accident,*

*You know Marys whereabouts,*

*Please report at the nearest police post a handsome*

*Reward*

*Awaits you*

*Questions*

*1. Who is the persona in this poem? (2 marks)*

*2. Identify any two themes tackled in the poem. (4 marks)*

*3. What satire is in the line “she was a student at the college of Christs*

*knowledge? (2 marks)*

*4. (i) Identify the style in line 7 of the second stanza. (2 marks)*

*(ii) What effect does the above style have in the poem? (2 marks)*

*5. What is the attitude of the persona towards Mary? (2 marks)*

*6. Explain the meaning of the following;*

*(i) Belle (1 marks)*

*(ii) A missing dog hears not the whistle of the hunter (1 marks)*

*7. (a) Comment on the tone of the poem. (2 marks)*

*(b) Explain the relevance of the title. (2 marks)*

*20.* Read the poem below and answer the question that follow.

**MONANGAMBA**.

On that big estate there is no rain

its the sweat of my brow that waters the crops

On that big estate there is coffee ripe

and that cherry  redness

is drops of my blood turned sap.

The coffee will be roasted,

ground, and crushed,

will turn black, black with the colour of the contract labourer.

Black with the colour of the contract labourer!

Ask the birds that sing,

The streams in carefree wandering

And the high wind from inland:

Who gets up early? Who goes to toil?

Who is it that carries on the long road

The hammock or the bunch of kernels?

Rotten maize, rotten fish,

Ragged clothes, fifty shillings

Beating for biting back?

Who?

Who makes the millet grow

And the orange groves to flower?

Who?

Who gives the money for the boss to buy

cars, machinery, women

And Negro heads for motors?

And the birds that sing,

The streams in carefree wandering

and the high wind from inland

will answer.

Mongambee ee

Ah! Let me at least climb the palm trees

Let me drink wine, palm wine

And fuddled by my drunkenness forget.

Mongambee ee

Questions

a) Explain who Monagamba is (3mks)

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b) Identify two instances of repetition and explain their effectiveness. (4mks)

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c) State two problems that the persona experiences in the hands of his boss.(4mks)

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d) Describe the tone of this poem. (2mks)

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e) Describe the character trait of the boss as depicted in the poem. (2mks)

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f) Explain the meaning of the following lines as used in the poem . (3mks)

(i) Its the sweat of my brow that waters the crop.

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(ii) that cherry  redness is drops of my blood turned sap.

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(iii) Black with the colour of the contract labourer

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g) How does the persona solve his problems? (2mks)

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*21. Read the following poem and questions that follow.*

*ONCE* **UPON A TIME**

Once upon a time dear son

They used to laugh with their hearts

And laugh with their eyes, but now they only

Laugh with their teeth

While their ice-cold-block-eyes

Search behind my shadow

There was a time indeed

They used to shake hands with their hearts

But thats gone son

Now they shake hands without hearts

As their hands search my empty pockets

feel at home, come again

They say but when I come

Again and feel at home, once, twice

There will be no thrice

For then I find the doors shut on me.

So I have learned many things, son

I have learned to wear many faces

Like dresses, home face, office face,

Cocktail face

With all their conforming smiles

Like a fixed portrait smile

And I have learned too

To laugh with only my teeth

And shake hands without my heart

I have also learned to say Goodbye

When I mean Good riddance

To say Glad to meet you

Without being glad: and to say it has been

Nice talking to you after being bored

But believe me son I want to be what I used to be when I was like you

I want to unlearn these muting things

Most of all, I want to re-learn

How to laugh, show me how

I used to laugh and smile

Once upon a time when I was like you

**Questions**

a) Who is speaking in the poem? (2mks)

..

b) What is the poem about? (3mks)

..

c) Identify any two images that emphasise what the persona is saying. (2mks)

..

d) Explain two poetic devices used in the poem (4mks)

..

e) Explain the following lines as used in the poem (4mks)

i) Like fixed portrait smile

..

I want to unlearn these muting things

..

iii) Laugh with their teeth

..

Laugh with their eyes

..

f) What is the relationship between the persona and the son? (2mks)

..

g) Describe the tone of the poem? (2mks)

..

h) Suggest an alternative title to the poem (lmk)

..

*22.* **Read the following poem and then answer the questions that follow**

**Night Rain**

What time of night it is

I do not know

Except that like some fish

Doped out of the deep

I have bobbed up bellywise

From stream of sleep

And no cocks crow.

It is drumming hard here

And I suppose everywhere.

Droning with insistent ardour upon

Our roof thatched and shed

To lightning and rafters

I cannot quite make out overhead

Great water drops are dribbling

Falling like orange or mango

Fruits showered forth in the wind

Or perhaps I should say so

Much like beads I could in prayer tell

Them on string as they break

In wooden bowls and earthenware

Mother is busy, now deploying

About out roomlet and floor.

Although it is so dark

I know her practiced step as

She moves her bins, bags and vats

Out of the run of water

That like ants filing oust of the wood

Will scatter and gain possession

Of the floor. Do not tremble then

But turn, brothers, turn upon your side

Of the loosening mats

To where the others lie.

We have drunk tonight of a spell

Deeper than the owls or bats

That wet of wings may not fly

Bedraggled upon the iroko, they stand

Emptied of hearts, and

Therefore will not stir, no, not

Even at dawn for then

They must scurry in to hide

So let us roll over on our back

And again roll to the beat

Of drumming all over the land

And under its ample soothing hand

Joined to that of the sea

We will settle to sleep of the innocent and free.

Questions

(a) Who is the persona in this poem? (2mks)

(b) Explain briefly what the poem is about (6mks)

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(c) Identify three stylistic devices used in the point (6mks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(d) What do you learn about the economic status of the personas family (2mks)

(e) Explain the meaning of the following images:

(i) We have drunk tonight of a spell (1mk)

..

(ii) Doped out of the deep (1mk)

f)What can we infer from the last line of the poem? (2mks)

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