

**P310/1
LITERATURE
IN ENGLISH
(Prose and Poetry)
Paper 1
3 hours**

STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL ZZANA

Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(Prose and Poetry)

Paper 1

3 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

All the sections are to be attempted.

*Candidates are advised to spend **70** minutes (1 hour 10 minutes) on section **I** and **55** minutes on sections **(II)** and **(III)** each.*

*Read section **I** twice and then answer the questions. There is **no** need to read the whole paper first.*

*Do the same for section **II** and Section **III**.*

Turn Over

SECTION I

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The importance of taking account of the social structures within which communications flow has been underlined by the studies of Lazarsfield and his associates. Such studies have brought to light the existence of a communication network of interconnected individuals. This is in contrast to the concept of a mass of disconnected individuals each in direct contact with the media. Of key importance here are the opinion leaders, who are particularly exposed to mass media, and who act as intermediaries.

The number of empirical studies has attempted to assess the impact of the mass media. A substantial volume of research has concentrated on the effects of television. It is clear from this that both the consumption of television and its impact is heavily patterned, and that 'the level and direction of consumption varies sharply with age, sex, intelligence, education social class, parental habits and social relations. The effect of television depends on these variables. We must get away from the habit of thinking in terms of what people do with television and substitute for it the idea of what people do with television' The impact of television on leisure, for example, depends to a considerable extent on what people did with their time before they had TV. Himmelweit has noted what she calls a 'displacement effect'; television viewing replaces comparable activities such as reading comics, cinema visits and radio listening. On the other hand, it has little effect on reading books, and sports activities.

Such researches have been stimulated largely by a growing public anxiety about the effect of the mass media and especially television which penetrates the home with an immediacy and potential power far greater than other forms. Lazarsfield and Merton have identified four main kinds of anxiety. Firstly, there is alarm at the potency of the media to manipulate the individual and his powerlessness in the face of such a threat. Secondly, there is the fear that economic interest groups may use the media to minimize social criticism and ensure conformity to the economic status quo. Thirdly, there is anxiety lest a desire to attract mass audiences causes deterioration in cultural standards. And finally, there is the fear that the media are producing passivity, dependency and escapism.

The evidence is somewhat complex. Many individuals with anxiety tendencies do seek fantasy and escape, and for these, television meets a need, and probably reinforces their escapist tendencies. Himmelweit, Oppenheim and Vince have not found evidence that TV makes children passive. But Belson discovered that television reduced the activities and initiative of viewers. Lazarsfield and Merton in America, however, argue that television does have a narcotic effect, and that 'the commercially-sponsored mass media indirectly but effectively restrain the cogent development of a genuinely critical outlook'. There is little doubt that violence on TV does not have the cathartic effect frequently claimed for it by reducing aggression vicariously. On the contrary, such material would appear to be especially dangerous for delinquents for whom such characters have been found to provide heroes, and models for action, while heavy exposure to violence on the screen heightens the possibility that someone will behave aggressively.

The long-term effect on tastes and interests is more difficult to discover. Himmelweit found that when there was only one channel, television did extend tastes, but with the opportunity for selective viewing offered by a second channel, there was a marked narrowing of tastes and preferences. American studies have similarly found evidence for a hardening of taste at a level which reflects its own search for a common denominator of taste. Himmelweit found that it widened tastes only for the bright ten and eleven years old, and for the average thirteen and fourteen years old.

The effects of television though significant and important, do not appear to be dramatic. But it is difficult to come to any firm conclusions from the available evidence of its cumulative and long term effects. The fact that the impact of television in a three-week election campaign is slight does not rule out the possibility that it may have more marked effects on political attitudes over a greater length of time. More research will be needed before this can be judged with any degree of certainty.

The influence of the Press is difficult to assess on the available evidence. The reports of 1949 and 1962 concluded that the popular press and on occasion, the quality press, fell short of the highest standards and were guilty of excessive partisanship, distortion, triviality and sensationalism. But the complex nature of the communication process does not enable conclusions to be drawn based simply on the content of communication. However, the 1949 report concluded that with few exceptions, newspapers 'fail to supply the electorate with adequate materials for sound political judgment. The fact that collectively the Press represents the whole spectrum of political opinion does little to help the average reader who is not in a position to perform the very complex task of comparing a number of partial and distorted accounts in order to extract an unbiased conclusion. The most probable result is that in those areas where the reader has direct experience, the Press is unlikely to have a major influence. But where he relies almost entirely on the Press, its distortions could have more significant effect.

Questions:

- (a) Find a suitable title for this passage and give reasons to justify the suitability. (04 marks)
- (b)
 - (i) What according to the passage determines the effect of television consumption? (05 marks)
 - (ii) State the growing public worries about the impact of the mass media as spelt in the passage. (05 marks)
- (c) What according to research reports in the passage are the negative effects of mass media on people? (10 marks)

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- (d) Explain the following words and expressions as used in the passage. (10 marks)
- (i) act as intermediaries.
 - (ii) empirical studies.
 - (iii) variables.
 - (iv) public anxiety.
 - (v) appear to be dramatic.
 - (vi) political attitudes.
 - (vii) triviality and sensationalism.
 - (viii) Whole spectrum.

SECTION II

2. Read the passage below and answer the questions following it.

Women must be voracious readers of magazines; the choice is considerable and the sales well above any other type of magazine on the market. The most popular, sold in their millions weekly, are the 'glossies', printed in gay colours with an attractive layout.

If the contents are any guide to the attitudes and tastes of the readers, then the average woman is a mixture of commonsense and superstition together with a combination of realism and sentimentality. The name may be different, but the pattern is almost the same week by week; brief letters from readers, each of whom received a guinea for publication (a fair example of which being 'I measured a bit of ribbon for an underskirt and cut the tape measure instead' signed Mrs. X.); homily from a member of the clergy; a 'knit one purl one' supplement; cookery recipes, mouth wateringly appealing to the eye; a shopping guide to the latest gadgets and accessories, including devices for storing or hanging up articles illustrated previously; a page of film, T.V. or show gossip, mainly about the stars' private fads and fancies, rather than an examination of the quality of the entertainment; answers to questions on etiquette, beauty and health; practical hints for brightening the home; gardening notes; an article on teenagers, usually on the assumption that they are a problem; kiddies corner; and always the last, but evidently by no means the least, the horoscopes.

Practically half the magazine is devoted to advertisements: aids to lightening the woman's housework so that she has more time to prepare herself for the ever-critical gaze of the male sex. To this end, she must, it seems, be thoroughly foam-lathered, deodorized, breath-sweetened, greased, shampooed, home-permed, dentifriced, powdered, perfumed, slimmed (or fattened), elastically confined, and freed from headaches and other complaints before she can ever hope to be eligible for

a 'romantic assignment', A snowy whiteness of apparel is also essential for Miss Lonelyheart.

Stories, serials and potted biographies make up a quarter of the reading matter, and it is here that the most powerful influence for good or bad must make itself felt upon the attitudes of the readers. Compared with much of the fiction provided for male readers elsewhere, there is a complete absence of violence in human relationships. There is hope, and a belief that harmony among human beings is desirable and possible, despite jealousies and suspicions. The respect for life is evident in the frequent stories about doctors and nurses which, in spite of the highly romantic presentation of hospital routine, must encourage readers to follow such worthwhile jobs. There is also often a genuine praise for the creative work of artists, ballet dancers and the like. Though illustrations may have such captions as 'she was like a flame with her red-gold hair, burning intensely with love for the first time in her life' there is no exploitation of the more sensational and squalid aspects of sex. Money worship, too, is rejected; a woman, it is implied, should marry for love.

Nevertheless, the setting of most stories is one where the people do not have to worry seriously about money problems. The unmarried heroine (like the average reader) may not be very well-off, but she generally manages to get herself involved with a hero, a professional or business executive type, who, if not then, will eventually earn at least £2,000 a year. Cars, country cottages, wines and liqueurs., and period houses seem to be taken very much for granted. In this cosy, enchanting world, one is not likely to encounter the problems of housing, .making ends meet at the end of each week, looking after children without benefit of charwomen and baby-minders—problems which are inescapable for the average person. In the stories, there is too much reliance upon luck (a legacy of a cottage by the sea is a favourite gambit). They give the impression that the only difficulties are those of misunderstanding, and that it only needs the misunderstanding to be cleared up for everything to be all right. Thus, the general effect upon the reader is to produce a passive dream-like state of wish fulfillment.

'There's something really terrifying about six feet of shy Scots masculinity, especially if you're tongue-tied yourself.' This, of course, is a real problem; many young people are shy, as one may gather from worried readers' letters. But you know after the first few paragraphs just how the story will end: 'a small house with a garden, and inside, slippers in hand and dinner in oven, a nice quiet welcoming girl.' They are adults' fairy stories, but without the vigour and freshness of language of childhood fairy stories.

Serials are frequently given a historical setting. The Restoration Period will readily provide a situation where the heroine may be rescued from the Fire and the Plague by some 'handsome, dashing, debonair' aristocrat. But the characters are Twentieth century people dressed up for the part. One learns nothing of the past from these stories, of the differences in ways of thought and human relationships of seventeenth century England. Instead, one is given another variation of the fairy story.

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Most people have a phase of reading the sort of magazine discussed above and there is no doubt that there is much in them which is useful, practical and helpful. However, such reading may become an ingrained habit, so that the reader is prevented from moving on further to a more valuable literature, just as some adults never get beyond the reading of comics. Good literature helps us to understand not only ourselves but others, whereas bad literature gives a false and misleading view of human relationships. The criticism is not that women's magazines deal only with romantic love—most people in love feel romantic—but against a wrong notion of romantic love. The danger is that when the young reader's marriage does not measure up to an impossible ideal, she may be unnecessarily bewildered and disappointed. In real life no one lives 'happy ever after', six feet of masculinity, and £2,000 a year notwithstanding.

(Useful Literacy by P.J Mc. Greeney)

- (a) What is the writer's view on what women read? (06 marks)
- (b) Why do women read such kind of materials? (06 marks)
- (c) What literature does the writer consider worth reading (06 marks)
- (d) Discuss the effective use of stylistic devices in the passage (12 marks)
- (e) Describe the tone in the extract. (04 marks)

SECTION III

4. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow on it.

A Sudden Storm

The wind howls, the trees sway,
The loose house-top sheets clatter and clang,
The open window shuts with a bang,
And the sky makes night of day.

Helter-skelter the parents run,
Pressed with a thousand minor cares:
'Hey, you there! Pack the household wares!
And where on earth's my son?'

Home skip the little children:
'Where have you been, you naughty boy?'-
The child feels nothing but joy,
For he loves the approach of rain.

The streets clear, the houses fill,
The noise gathers as children shout
To rival the raging wind without,
And nought that can move it still.

A bright flash! - a lighted plain;
Then from the once-blue heavens,
Accompanied by noise that deafens,
Steadily pours the rain.

Pius Oleghe

- (a) Discuss the effect of the approaching storm on man and nature in general as portrayed in the poem. (08 marks)
- (b) Identify the speaking voice in the poem. (03 marks)
- (c) How effective are the poetic devices used? (12 marks)
- (d) Comment on the following in the poem;
 - (i) Tone (02 marks)
 - (ii) Mood (02 marks)
 - (iii) Intention (02 marks)
 - (iv) Attitude (04 marks)

END

