

END OF TERM 1 EXAMS  
S.3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**Instructions:** Attempt all questions.

**SECTION: A**

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Future of Vernacular Literature

The first step in vernacular literature is not a step. The first step is to open your ears. Listen to the birds' songs and the talk of the monkeys. Go to the clan shrine; the diviner-priest is dressed in his frightening regalia, rattle gourd in one hand, and in the other his spear of office; listen to him addressing the dead, and the chorus of the assembled clansmen and clanswomen. And at the chiefdom shrine, listen to the priest invoking the gods.

Go to the funeral dance and study the dirges – the outbursts of grief and wailing in sorrow. Attend the “oiling” ceremony of a new chief; and as the men and women of the entire chiefdom dance the *bwala* dance, listen to the proud songs in which are embodied the history of the chiefdom. The inter-chiefdom wars are now fought on the political platform, but there are many old men who can still sing the war songs for you.

The investigations of most educated people interested in literature are limited to the library and bookshop. We have read all of the few novels and books of poetry written in the vernacular; and also the bible and the prayer book and the pilgrim's progress that have been so hopelessly mistranslated into the vernacular. We have kept all the local cultural society's magazines, containing traditional songs, local history, short stories and folk tales.

In the evening, we have sat on our big sofa and put our legs on the table, and said “there is very little vernacular literature”, and have pulled out our modern African novel. Meanwhile, all over the countryside, the outdoor fires have been lit, and the folk tales are being performed. And the moonlight dance drums are throbbing in the distance, and the beautiful love songs come floating through the air. Boy is meeting girl, and the witty and lively love debate is raging. And sure, some people are quarrelling, co-wives, father and son, mother and daughter ... and at the wedding the *nanga* players are in action: they sing praises to their “boy” who has just wedded, and hurl friendly insults at the other side: the in-laws.

The term “literature”, when translated to mean “writings of a country or a period, writings whose value lies in beauty or form or emotional effect”, is too thin for our

purpose. Writing, like painting and sculpting is merely a tool that is used for “communicating” ideas. As the painter uses brush and colour and surface (whether it is canvas or the wall of a cave), the poet uses words. And the words may be spoken, sung or written. And a song is a song whether it is written or not. Jesus Christ sang many songs, but although he could not read, he did not write his songs on paper. The only piece of write that the Nazarean ever did was in the sand!

We may, for the purpose of our analysis, classify the vernacular literature of a people into two – the written, and the oral. In all parts of Africa, vernacular literature that is written forms a most insignificant part of the total, as it caters only for those who can read, and even for them not entirely satisfactorily. The vast majority of our people in the countryside have a full-blooded oral culture – so deep, so vivid and alive that for the moment the very little written stuff appears almost irrelevant.

It is true that revolutionary political, religious, economic and ideological changes have taken place in east Africa – and are still going on. Much of the traditional oral literature, such as the *bwola* songs and the war songs among the Acholi, is now socially irrelevant. But social change has not succeeded in demolishing the entire social structure, and so the literature relevant to these remaining structures is still alive and vivid. It is essential that we collect and record as much of this as possible. We must study it and enjoy it as it constitutes what we have as the real literature of our people.

As we do so, it is essential that we should rid ourselves of the fallacious notion that literature is the activity of the elite. It is significant that one of the first and very few African artists who suffered for his poetry was a man who could neither read nor write. He was given a two-year jail term in Gulu in northern Uganda for his political songs attacking the Chief – the representative of the colonial administration – the District Commissioner, and the King of England, in the 1940s. Adok –Too – “I become death” – whose real name was Omal, was protesting against the forced labour system:

1. In about 80 words summarize the four stages of African vernacular literature.

Rough copy

Fair copy

**SECTION: B I**

- 1.1. What point is the writer making in the first two paragraphs?
- A. To listen to vernacular literature, attend traditional ceremonies.
  - B. Traditional religion is still very much alive.
  - C. If you want to study vernacular literature, listen to the diviner –priest.
  - D. Traditions have been overtaken by modern politics.
- 1.2. The writer seems to think that most educated people in East Africa
- A. Only read modern literature.
  - B. Take no notice of vernacular literature.
  - C. Might read vernacular literature, but don't listen to it.
  - D. Pay lip-service to vernacular literature, but only read modern African literature.
- 1.3. According to the writer vernacular literature can be studied.
- A. At traditional ceremonies    B. all over the countryside
  - C. at traditional ceremonies and in many social situations.
  - D. all over the countryside at night.
- 1.4. The writer is against the tradition definition of literature because, to him, the important thing about literature is that it.
- A. is creative, the fact that it may be written is only incidental.

- B. is fallacious to suppose that it is the activity of the elite.
- C. is sung before it is written
- D. is merely a tool for communicating ideas.

1.5. Which of the following does the writer think?

- A. Written literature is more important than spoken literature.
- B. Traditional oral literature is no longer socially relevant.
- C. Literature is an activity of the elite.
- D. It is essential to record and enjoy oral literature while we can-

## SECTION: B II

Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

It was just after the sheep had returned on a pleasant evening, and were making their way back to the farm buildings, that terrified neighing of a horse sounded from the yard. Startled, the animals stooped in their tracks. It was clover's voice. She neighed again, and all the animals broke in to gallop and rushed in to the yard. Then they saw what clover had seen.

It was a pig walking on his hind legs. Yes, it was squealer. A little awkwardly, as though not quite use to supporting his considerable bulk in that position, but with perfect balance, was strolling across the yard, a moment later, out from the door of the farm house came along line with pigs, all walking on their hind legs. Some did better than others, one or two were even a **trifle unsteady** and looked as they would have liked the support of walking stick but every one of them made his way right round the yard successfully. Finally there was a tremendous haying of dogs and shrill crowing upright, casting **haughty glances** from side to side and with the dogs gamboling round him he carried a whip in his trotter.

There was **dead silence**. Amazed terrified, huddling together, the animal watched the long line of pigs march slowly round the yard. It was as though the world had turned upside down. Then there came a moment when the first shock hard worn off and when, inspite of everything – inspite of their terror of dogs and of the habit, developed through long years, of never complaining, never criticizing, no matter what happened, they might have **uttered** some word of protest. But just at that moment, at though at a signal, all the sleep burst out in to a tremendous bleating of-

‘Four legs good, two legs better!

Four legs good, two legs better!

Four legs good, two legs better!

It went on for five minutes without stopping. And by the time the sheep had quieted down, the chance to utter any protest had passed, for the pigs had marched hack in to the farm house.

Benjamin felt a nose nuzzling at his shoulder. He looked a round. It was clover. Her old eyes looked dimmer than ever. Without saying anything, she tugged gently at his mane and led him round to the end of the big barn, where the seven commandments were written. For a minute or two they stood gazing at the tarred wall with its white lettering.

‘My sight is failing, she said family, Even when I was young I could not have read what was written there. But it appears to me that, that wall looks different. Are the seven commandments the same as they used to be, Benjamin?’

For Benjamin consented to break his rule, and he read out her what was written on the wall. There was nothing there now except a single commandment. It ran.

ALL NATION ARE EQUAL  
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE  
EQUAL THAN OTHERS.

**Questions:**

2.1. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as they are used in the passage

(i). **a trifle unsteady**

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(ii). **Haughty glances**

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(iii). **dead silence**

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(iv). **Uttered.**

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2.2. What were the pigs doing when Clover first saw them?

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2.3. From the passage who do you think changed the commandments from seven to only one?

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2.4. Why were the animal terrified?

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### SECTION B III

***Rewrite the following sentences (3.1 – 3.10) as instructed without changing the meaning.***

3.1 If you had not helped me I would not have made it.

(Rewrite beginning: But for .....)

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.....

3.2 As he was walking along the road, a bus ran him over.

(rewrite ending .....a bus)

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.....

3.3 The clock stopped because Bob didn't wind it.

(Change to the passive voice)

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.....

3.4 Kim does not usually get out of the house on Sundays.

(Rewrite using: used to.)

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.....

- 3.5 The policeman said to the driver "you have twenty four hours within which to produce your driving licence. Otherwise, you will be fined."  
(Begin: The policeman told the driver that unless .....)  
.....  
.....
- 3.6 We have ten packets of butter. My sister wants me to go to the shop and buy ten more. I don't understand why.  
(Rewrite as one sentence without introducing and but end it with ..... ten already)  
.....  
.....
- 3.7 He is heavier than I.  
(Begin: I .....)  
.....
- 3.8 Alice is quite fit now. She can begin training with the rest of the netball team.  
(Rewrite as one sentence using enough)  
.....  
.....
- 3.9 The girl desisted from being unruly because she did not want to be branded a stubborn student.  
(Rewrite using for fear of instead of because)  
.....  
.....
- 3.10 He is too big. He can not run that fast.  
(Make one sentence from the two given sentences.)  
.....  
.....

***Complete the sentences 3.11 – 3.20 with the most suitable answer among the given alternatives. Put a ring around your choice.***

- 3.11. No citizen is above the law, .....be rich or poor.  
A. be B. even if C. whether D. though

- 3.12 They are in form four, .....?  
 A. is it B. isn't it C. aren't they D. do they
- 3.13 He .....in the school for the last three years.  
 A. was working B. is working  
 C. had worked D. has been working
- 3.14 The weather was .....dull that we could not play outside.  
 A. so B. rather C. too D. much
- 3.15 The .....man is my husband.  
 A. tall, dark, English, handsome  
 B. tall, dark, handsome, English  
 C. English, dark, tall, handsome  
 D. English, handsome, dark tall
- 3.16 After the game was over, the spectators .....  
 A. will disperse B. were dispersing  
 C. dispersed D. disperse
- 3.17 The house was .....furnished.  
 A. luxuriantly B. luxuriously  
 C. expensively D. leisurely
- 3.18 Which of the alternatives given is the most correctly punctuated?  
 A. "What an interesting book this is!" exclaimed John  
 B. "What an interesting  
 C. "What an interesting book this is" exclaimed John  
 D. "What an interesting book this is"! exclaimed John
- 3.19 Mr. smith's condition gets very .....when people disturb him.  
 A. aggrieved B. aggravated C. agog D. apologetic
- 3.20 He received no pay as the post is an.....one  
 A. honourable B. onerous  
 C. honorarium D. honorary