

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE
END OF TERM II EXAMS 2011
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
P310 / 1 PROSE AND POETRY

SENIOR FIVE

TIME: 2 ½ HOURS

Instructions: *There are three sections in this paper. Answer all the questions from all the three sections.*

SECTION I

Read the text below carefully and answer the questions asked after it.

But there were times, some in the very midst of satisfaction, when the thought of his son would come to him. And then in one fraction of time the hills with the deep melodious names stood out waste and desolate beneath the pitiless sun, the streams ceased to run, the cattle moved thin and listless over the red and rootless earth. It was a place of old women and mothers and children, from each house something was gone. His voice would falter and die away and he would fall silent and muse. Perhaps it was that, or perhaps he clutched suddenly at the small listening boy, for the little one would break from the spell and wriggle in his arms to be put down to play again with his blocks on the floor. As though he was searching for something that would put an end to his sudden unasked for pain, the thought of his wife would come to him and of many a he had and the small children coming down from the hills, dropping sometimes out of the very mist on their way to school. These things were so dear to him that the pain passed and he contemplated them in quiet and some measure of peace.

Questions:

1. What effect does the thought of his son have on the old man?
2. What two actions would alarm the child?
3. What picture do you get of the place where the old man lived?

SECTION II

Read the paragraphs below carefully and then respond to the questions asked after it.

The live fowl squatting on the grape fruit and bananas in the basket of the copper coloured lady is gloomy but resigned.

The four very large baskets on the floor are in everybody's way, as the conductor poits out loudly, often, but in vain.

Two quadroon dandies are disputing who is standing on whose feet.

When we stop, a boy vanishes through the door marked ENTRANCE, but those entering through the door marked EXIT are greatly hindered by the fact that when he started there were twenty standing, and another ten have somehow inserted themselves into invisible crannies between dark sweating body and body.

With an odour of petrol both excessive and alarming, we hurtle hell for leather between crimson bougainvillea blossom and scarlet poinsettia and miraculously do not run over three goats, seven hens and a donkey as we pray that the driver has not fortified himself at Daisy's Drinking saloon with more than four rums or by the gods of Jamaica this day is out last.

Questions:

1. What struck the writer's eyes, ears, and sense of smell as he traveled on his bus?
2. Mention two incidents that add up to the general feeling of confusion or disregard for regulations.
3. Name two dangers in this way of traveling:
 - (a) One inside the bus
 - (b) One outside
4. If "this is our last" what would happen to the people on the bus?

SECTION III

Read the poem below carefully and answer the questions after it as concisely as possible.

Conquerors

Henry Treece

By sundown we came for a hidden village
Where all the air was still
And no sound met our tired ears, save
For the sorry drip of rain from blackened trees
And the melancholy song of swinging gates.
Then through a broken pane some of us saw
A dead bird in a rusting cage, still
Pressing his thin tattered breast against the bars
His beak wide open. And
As we hurried through the weed-grown street
A gaunt dog started up from some dark place
And shambled off on legs as thin as sticks
Into the wood, to die at least in peace.
No one had told us victory was like this:
Not one amongst us would have eaten bread
Before he filled the mouth of the grey child
That sprawled, stiff as a stone, before the shattered door.
There was not one of us who did not think of home.

Questions:

1. What sounds do the soldiers hear? How could their ears be tired.
2. What three or dying things do they see? What details make these so shocking to the soldiers?
3. What details help to build up an atmosphere of destruction and desolation?

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