

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

BEGINNING OF TERM I EXAMS 2013

S.5 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

P310 / 1 [PROSE & POETRY]

TIME: 3 HOURS

SECTION I

Read the passage below and respond to the questions that are asked after it.

Ihoma's complexion was that of the ant-hill. Her features were smoothly rounded and looking at her no one could doubt that was "enjoying her husband's wealth". Nothing did a husband greater credit than the well-fed look of his wife. In the first year of her marriage, Ihoma had been slim and quite a few of her more plumpy mates had remarked that food was being wasted on her. Now she had shamed her critics.

Ihoma's smiles were disharming. Perhaps the narrow gap in the upper row of her white teeth was fashionable. Any girl who was not favoured with one employed the services of carvers who could create them. Of course accidents occurred now and then! A blood clot could blacken a tooth or the carver's chisel graze the tongue. Ihoma's gap was natural and other women envied her.

That she was beautiful she had no doubt, but that did not make her arrogant. She was sympathetic, gentle and reserved. It was her husband's boast that in their six years of marriage she had never had a serious quarrel with another woman. She was not good at invectives and other women talked much faster than she did. The fact that she would be outdone in a verbal exchange perhaps partly restrained her from coming into open verbal conflict with her neighbours. Gradually she acquired the capacity to bear a neighbour's stinging remarks without a repartee. In this way her prestige among the women folk grew until even the most garrulous among them was reluctant to be unpleasant to her. She found herself settling quarrels and offering advice to older women.

"Please go home," she should say to one of a pair of quarreling women. "The veins in your neck are bulging out with much talking. Are you going crazy?" And to the other, "Why, your baby must be crying at home, stop talking and go and feed her."

"Ihoma, I hear you," says the one, "but imagine this fool of a woman remarking that I am skinny. She knows very well that I am nursing a baby and that I was ill during pregnancy. Look at her legs, as thin as those of a mosquito".

"But Ihoma," says the other, "she abused me first. She says I have cheeks as fat as those of a toad."

"Why don't you both listen to me? I am sure your husbands have not had their evening meals. Why not go and prepare them? By the way, I have come to borrow something

from you. Take me home and lend it to me”. She would lead one woman home and so end the storm.

Note: this passage comes from a novel set in Nigeria.

Questions:

1. What in the passage might give us the idea that Igbo woman are generally quarrelsome?
2. Suggest words or phrases that could be used instead of:
 - (a) arrogant
 - (b) open verbal conflict
 - (c) skinny
3. How do we get impression that Ihoma is very responsible and full of consideration for others?

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
1. 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.

THE NEW SHIPS

Takoradi was hot.
Green struggled through red
As we landed.

Laterite lanes drifted off
Into dust
Into silence.

Mummies crowded with clothes,
Flowered and laughed;
White teeth
Smooth voices like pebbles
Moved by the sea of their language.

“akwaaba” they smiled
Meaning welcome
“akwaaba” they called
“aye koo”

Well have you walked
Have you journeyed

Welcome

You who have come
Back a stranger
After three hundred years

Welcome

Here is a stool for
You; sit; do
You remember?

Here is water
Dip
Wash your hands
Are you ready
To eat?

Here is plantain
Here palm oil
Red, staining the fingers;
Good for the heat,
For the sweat.

Do
You remember?

Questions:

1. What is the first thing the poet notices about Ghana? How do we know the action is in Ghana?
2. In the second line, what do you think was green and what was red?
3. What is the figure of speech in the following?
 - (a) smooth voices like pebbles
 - (b) moved by the sea of their language?

Explain why this is a particularly effective comparison.

4. What is the mood of this poem?

Good Luck