

# JINJA JOINT EXAMINATIONS BOARD

# Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education MOCK EXAMINATIONS, 2022 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH Paper 3

(Novels and Short Stories)

## INSTRUCTIONS TO EXAMINERS

- This is just a guide. You can add or subtract to it
- Candidates must show knowledge of the texts and show that they do not only narrate but show a mature analysis of ideas required by the question
- Full marks are given for clear points and explanation with illustration from the texts.
- The context is compulsory.

## **SECTION A**

# **CHARLES DICKENS:** Great Expectations

1. How relevant is the novel *Great Expectations* to our times?

# Candidates are required to relate the novel to contemporary times

- Education is seen as a road to the future
- People are left at the altar at weddings
- Wealth separates people from those who are poor
- Poor parents want a great deal of better life for their children
- There's death and loss of lives
- Some people are driven by jealousy and envy and want nothing good for others
- Many people fail to get over terrible moments in their lives
- We many times try to hide those we don't want arrested.
- Wealth is seen as a stepping stone in society.
- True love can be hindered by past experiences
- Lawyers can be crafty in the way they do their work

Mark as a whole: 33 marks

2. How satisfactory is the ending of the novel *Great Expectations*?

# Candidates are required to explain the ending of the novel and how this brings the novel to a logical conclusion

The novel ends with Pip running into Estella in the garden of Satis House after many years of separation. Estella has been widowed after an unhappy marriage in which her husband "used her with great cruelty. The ending is satisfactory in many ways:

- Pip has matured as a character. He is able to see beyond his personal judgments
- Pip and Estella can finally get together and be married.
- Pip's humane nature contrasts with the cruelty of Estella's husband. With him, Estella is bound to have a better life and chance at love
- Additionally, Pip had always longed to have Estella. In the end he will have her. In taking her hand, he is assured of having her without any incumberance
- Without the ruthlessness of Miss Havisham, Estella too has matured beyond the influence of revenge. She is ready to curve her way in life on her terms
- Estella asks for Pip's forgiveness, an aspect of change and transformation in her, considering what she had been at first.
- Joe is happy with Biddy and their son. Pip notices the power of real selfless love in their relationship and truly appreciates it
- The destruction of Satis House is a new start for Estella. With it, all the Havisham years have gone. She is ready to move on.

Mark as a whole: 33 marks

# THOMAS HARDY: Tess of the D'Urbervilles

3. Examine the theme of love as shown in the novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles

# Candidates are required to show the theme of love and how it is borne out in the novel

- Love is a feeling of affection toward someone or something
- Love in the novel is seen as showing its different sides. It is either true love or shallow in nature

- In Marlott, the first experience is of love and nature, and the humans in their personal love are in tune with nature. It is no wonder that there is a great degree of innocence in the local traditions of the people.
- Tess' first experience with Alec forebodes his later rejection of her. Angel is untutored in dealing with women and Tess, in her innocence wonders why he rejected her in Marlott.
- Alec's kind of love is one that shows degrees of infatuation. No wonder he uses Tess and dumps her
- Alec's love is manipulative. He manipulates Tess to go back to him, saying Angel won't return.
- Alec's love is abusive and controlling
- His love is also shown as one not between equals. It is no wonder that he sees Tess as a play toy to him. This is different with Angel who sees himself and Tess as equals.
- Angel truly loves Tess. Even when he goes away, he comes back repentant.
- At Talbothay's farm, the true sense of love is shown. The superstitions about love with the milk not churning are brought to the fore.
- Additionally, Tess feels at home while at the farm. All the hands at the farm like her and the personality that she is.
- Tess loves her parents and feels her responsibility is toward them making sure that they are safe and happy
- Tess feels her love for Angel can only be pure without Alec in the picture. This is the reason she kills Alec in order to be free of him so as to live with Angel.
- The fluidity in Angel's love is also seen in how he suggests that Izzy goes with him to Brazil. He has totally lost sense of direction as a man.

4. How is Tess more sinned against than sinning in the novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*?

# Candidates are required to explain the points where Tess sins and where she is sinned against. A standpoint is required for this question

This statement is made by Angel on the wedding night after Tess recounts to him her past troubles. Angel in anguish and self-righteousness says these words as if to justify Tess. On the whole, Tess is more sinned against than sinning

# Sinned against

- Being forced to become an adult before her time
- The rape incident by Alec in the woods
- The Marlott Community discriminates against her when she gets pregnant

- She's forced to go get acquaintance with the Durbervilles without a background check on them
- Her ancestors never intervene in the tough moments of her life
- She is mistreated at Flintcomb Ash farm under hard working conditions
- Angel abandons her on their wedding night
- Farmer Groby's mistreatment of Tess at Flintcomb Ash farm exhausts her very last energy
- Angel's family judges her as unclean without ever meeting her
- The community judges her at the end without listening to her side of the story and condemns her to death.

### Sins

- She is overly sensitive and this works against her as a character.
- She destroys the family fortune with the death of Prince and slowly this eats her up as she takes responsibility.
- She listens to the parents to move to The Slopes without taking personal responsibility for herself. In the end she is raped by Alec.
- She does not immediately tell Angel about her past relationship with Alec. Even when she tries to, she retracts the letter.
- She allows herself to be manipulated by Alec whom she finds again at Flintcomb-Ash Farm and does not take time to think through his manipulative nature.
- Tess' stoicism works against her in the novel.
- Tess kills Alec at the end of the novel in order to free herself.

Sins: 10 marks: Any 5 x 2

Sinned against: 20 marks: Any 10 x 2

Introduction: 2 marks Standpoint: 1 mark

## JANE AUSTEN: Pride and Prejudice

5. Discuss the effectiveness of the different stylistic devices used in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

# Candidates are required to explain the techniques, illustrate theme and show their effectiveness in the novel

- Dialogue
- Characterisation
- Setting

- Descriptive narrative
- Contrast/ Juxtaposition
- Symbolism
- Omniscient narrator
- Chronological arrangement
- Irony (Dramatic, verbal and situational)
- Epistology
- Allusion
- Pathetic fallacy

# Any 11 x 3: 33 marks

6. How significant is the marriage between Darcy and Elizabeth in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*?

# Candidates are required to show how the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy help them understand the novel in terms of character, plot and themes

At the end of the novel, Darcy and Elizabeth are married. They have been able, through experience and personal reflection to get over the prejudices and ideas they have had of each other. The marriage is significant in many ways:

- They marry for love and not personal advancement.
- At the end of the novel, they not only love but have great respect for each other. It is a marriage between equals and not of social class.
- Both Kitty and Georgiana are given positive role models through this marriage.
- At the end of the novel, Ms Bingley and Lady de Bourgh have both assented to the marriage.
- Their marriage not only gives them pleasure but positively affects their community. The selfishness they both had at the start is totally deconstructed through and by this marriage.
- Elizabeth has come to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness.
- Elizabeth also feels that her love is finally reciprocated by Darcy at the end of the novel.
- The marriage shows Elizabeth's ability to put her foot down and go for the man she loves and not the one society would want for her. This is one reason Lady de Bourgh accepts the marriage
- In the end, the opening statement of the novel comes to full circle, as Darcy finds the woman that he deserves and deserves him.
- It also brings to light the importance of others' marriages for example, bringing to exposure why Wickham's marriage is based on class and Bingley has finally found his happiness.

### **SECTION B**

# MONGO BETI: The Poor Christ of Bomba

7. Discuss the relevance of the title 'The Poor Christ of Bomba' to the novel *The Poor Christ of Bomba* 

Candidates are required to show how relevant the title of the novel is to the events, plot, themes and characters in the novel

The novel, through the eyes of Denis shows the life of Fr Drumont and his two assistants, Denis and Zacharia and their missionary journey in the forest of the Tala region. The title not only reflects on Drumont but also shows the failures of trying to Christianise Cameroon

- There is a failure by Drumont to understand the life and customs of the people he is evanngelising
- There is a great degree of judgmental personality in Drumont about the people
- So many things go on in the Sixa that are not Christian at all and Drumont knows nothing about the rot in the sixa.
- The people in the region stay completely resistant to Drumont and his faith
- Drumont uses conversions through fear and misery and has no compassion like what Jesus preached.
- Drumont imagines that the people have accepted Christ fully and does not see the motivation of cash and economic power because of the development in the region
- Drumont's bombastic language does not take into account the people that he is preaching to. His hard message ends up never being adhered to.
- Drumont's preaching is alien to the people and so they get tired of listening to him and feign obedience.
- There is a way in which Drumont is oblivious of the people he lives with. He never notices that Catherine and Zacharia are in an illicit affair.
- Even with much evangelism, there is no attempt to keep a sustained church. In fact, there is decay and ruin in the chapels where we would expect growth and bigger congregations
- The attempt to preach against polygamy and adultery and immorality is a façade. Drumont is aloof to his blindness to completely convert the people

- With Vidal finding out that the Fr is failing, the latter is advised to stay threatening to impose a blatant condition of slavery on the Talas if Fr contemplates to leave. Drumont's achievements have collapsed.

Mark as a Whole: 33 marks

8. How is Christianity portrayed in the novel *The Poor Christ of Bomba*?

# Candidates are required to explain how Christianity in the novel is portrayed

Christianity is the belief in God and His Son Jesus. Christians are followers of Christ. In the novel, Christianity is portrayed as follows:

- Hypocritical
- Oblivious of its own faults
- Non productive as Fr Drumont realizes his failure in Tala when it is too late
- Oppressive of the natives
- Most Christians are proud and seem to gain a lot of strength and power from this sense of self importance.
- There is a great degree of moral failure as seen in Drumont, Catherine, and Zacharia. While the latter act of defiance, the priest is even unaware of his own moral failure in Tala
- Vindictive
- Judgmental
- Christianity is used as a tool of colonial advancement and oppression.
- Its surface self does not change the inward person. The experiences in the sixa show this to a great deal.
- Creates classes among the people, as the natives are seen as not Christian enough. This discriminatory nature of Christianity defeats the notion of Christianity itself.

Mark as a whole: 33 marks

## NGUGI WA THIONG'O: Devil on the Cross

9. How does corruption affect the Kenyans in Ngugi's *Devil on the Cross*?

# Candidates are required to show the effect of corruption on the Kenyans

- Corruption is the failure of people to adhere to specific set notions of integrity and personal character uprightness. IN the novel, there are three types of corruption: Moral corruption, financial corruption and political corruption.

- Christianity is corrupted and calls people to live according to the white man's religion, a religion of the oppressor
- Natives follow the Christian faith blindly and in the end are controlled by it since they cannot question anything in it.
- The wealth of the people is taken away as the oppressors are ready to take bribes, deceive and steal as much wealth as they can.
- There is a breed of Kenyans who choose to stand up to get rid of the robbers in an attempt to save Kenya for example Wangari
- False accusations because of a corrupted police system eg Wariinga who is accused of creating chaos.
- People's land is grabbed without fear.
- Social classes between the rich and poor are created in what would have been a one class society.
- Parasitism of the ruling class takes away the humanity of the Kenyans.
- Essential goods are expensive because of hoarding and the black market.
- The Kenyans are disillusioned about the fruits of independence and are desperate for a change

10. Examine the theme of disillusionment as shown in the novel *Devil on the Cross*.

# Candidates are required to show the theme of disillusionment in the novel

Disillusionment is when one is unhappy about the fruits of what they expected to be being changed for something worse. In the novel, disillusionment is one of the themes.

- Even after independence, many black men are willing to work as proxies for the whites in oppressing what should be independent people
- Foreign rule in the name of local lords is the theme of the day in Kenya even after independence.
- Politicians in the new Kenya are seen as man eating ogres, and are cannibalistic in their exploitation of the fellow Kenyans.
- Independence does not free the Kenyans. They find themselves in an even more complex state of relationship between them, as a working class, and the new breed of politicians, especially as class differences become more pronounced in the Kenyan society.
- Wangaari's sexualization being asked to sell her body instead of looking for a job is a show of how decayed the Kenyan society has come
- Kenya is robbed of its wealth and the citizens seem helpless in the face of this decay and corruption.

- The religious corruption in society has created people so bent on the white man's religion and ways of life. There is no religious independence even at the time of independence.
- Where the people would have gotten land, they find themselves squatters on their own land in their own country because power is still in the hands of a few.
- The level of outright boldness in being corrupt as shown at the devil's feast and the shock of the upright Kenyans shows a state of no return for Kenya, and only hope keeps them fighting against this form of moral corruption.
- However, despite this disillusionment, there is a group of Kenyans willing to fight for their country. Not all is lost in the novel.

#### IVAN TURGENEV: Fathers and Sons

- 11. Of what significance is the difference between the old and young in the novel *Fathers* and *Sons*?
- 12. Discuss the character and role of Arkady Nikolayevitch Kirsanov in the novel *Fathers* and *Sons*

## **SECTION C**

# ALEX LA GUMA: A Walk in the Night

13.

The driver was worried, and he said: 'Come on, man, let's go. Let's go.'

He looked down at the boy who had been shot. The front of the yellow shirt was dark with blood and there was some blood at the edge and lapels of his coat. He had fainted and in the light of the headlamps his face bore a stark, terrible look, the skin coarse and drawn tight so that the bone structure of the adolescent undeveloped face showed gauntily, covered with a fil of sweat.

The driver said: 'Christ, ma, we'd better hurry up. Get him out of here. We ought to call an ambulance, I say.'

'Muck the ambulance,' Constable Raalt snapped. 'Load him in the back of the van and take him down to the station. They' fix him up there, the bloody hotnot.'

We'd better go,' the driver repeated impatiently. 'I don't like this crowd.'

'This crowd. A lot of bloody baboons. All right, man, let's get this bogger into the back. You take him by the feet.'

The driver stooped quickly and took the boy by his ankles. He was in a hurry to get away from there, and felt nervous and anxious. Raalt bent over the boy's head and gripped the collar of his coar, hauling him roughly into a sitting position. His other hand still held the pistol, and his eyes watched the murmuring crowd. The driver raised the boy and they carried him, his limp body sagging in the middle like a half-empty sack, to the back of the van. Around them the crowd rolled forward again and the driver prayed that there wouldn't be any more shooting. He told himself that Raalt was crazy to have shot the youth and that there would probably be a hell of a lot of trouble over this.

They got the double doors of the van open and bundled the unconscious boy in the back. In his hurry to get away the driver pushed and thrust him quickly, so that he rolled and flopped on the bed of the van, groaning. They slammed the doors and came around to the driving cabin, Raalt still holding the gun, watching the sullen crowd.

## **Ouestions**

a) Briefly give the context of this scene

The scene takes place at **night on the street**. Constable Raalt keeps **walking in the night** looking for blacks that are breaking the law. The blacks **struggle to sleep and keep walking** in the night as an act of survival. On this one night, **Raalt searches the streets** for Williboy. When Willieboy sees him, **he tries to run, something that forces Raalt to shoot him.** A **crowd gathers in a state of resistance**. Raalt and his colleague **get scared** of what will happen next and in frantic fear try to get Willieboy into the car and the scene follows.

After the scene, they struggle to start the car and drive through the mob that has gathered.

## (10 marks)

- b) Explain the character of Raalt as shown in the scene
- Impulsive
- Judgmental
- Rude/ Cruel
- Vindictive
- Inhuman
- Abusive
- Contemptuous of the blacks

## **Any 3 x 2: 6 marks**

- c) Briefly describe the mood of the scene
- Urgency
- Tense
- Sombre
- Gloomy

## Any 3x2: 6 marks

- d) How relevant is this scene here and elsewhere in the story?
- Develops the theme of racial injustice
- Shows the fact that the blacks are dehumanized by the system
- The theme of oppression and disregard for humans is brought to the fore in the scene
- The whites and their fear for the blacks is exposed here. It is this fear that drives their behavior toward them
- Adonis will suffer as a wanderer for his color too
- The whites too are walkers in the night, as they attempt to deal with their own skeletons

## Any 6x2: 12 marks

## EZEKIEL MPHALELE: In Corner B

14.

- 'Have the police caught the boys?'
- 'No what, when has a black corpse been important?'
- 'But they have been asking questions in Corner B today.'
- 'Hm.
- 'When's a black corpse been important?'
- 'Das' right, just ask him.'
- 'It is Saturday today and if it was a white man lying there in the mortuary the newspapers would be screaming about a manhunt morning and evening since Thursday, the city would be upside down, God's truth.'
- 'Now look here you men these men don't mean to kill nobody their empty stomachs and no work to do turns their heads on evil things.'
- 'Ach you and your politics let one of them break into your house or ra-'
- The speaker broke off short and wiped his mouth with his hand as if to remove pieces of a foul word hanging carelessly from his lip.
- 'Das not the point,' squeaked someone else.

Just then the notes of a moving hymn rolled out of the room and the men left the subject hanging and joined enthusiastically in the singing, taking different parts.

Some women were serving tea and sandwiches. A middle-aged man was sitting at a table in a corner of the room. He had an exercise book in front of him, in which he entered the names of those who donated money and the amounts they gave. Such collections were meant to help meet funeral expenses. In fact they went into buying tea, coffee, bread and even groceries for meals served to guests who came from far.

'Who put him there?' asked an uncle of the deceased in an anxious tone, pointing at the money collector.

'Do I know?' an aunt said.

The question was relayed in whispers in different forms. Every one of the next of kin denied responsibility. It was soon discovered that the collector had mounted the stool on his own initiative.

'But don't you know that he has long fingers?' the same uncle flung the question in a general direction, just as if it were a loud thought.

'I'm going to tell him to stop taking money. Hei, Cousin Stoffel, take that exercise book at once, otherwise we shall never know what has happened to the money.' Cousin Stoffel was not fast, but he had a reputation for honesty.

It was generally known that the deposed young man appeared at every death house where he could easily be suspected to be related to the deceased, and invariably used his initiative to take collections and dispose of some of therevenue. But of course several of the folk who came to console Talita could be

seen at other vigils and funerals by those who themselves were regular customers. The communal spirit? Largely. But also they were known to like their drinks very much. So a small fund was usually raised from the collections to buy liquor from a shebeen nearby and bring it to the wake.

### **Questions**

- a) Explain the context of this scene
- b) Briefly describe the mood of the scene
- c) Of what significance is the dialogue in the scene
- d) What themes does this scene show here and elsewhere in the story?

**CHINUA ACHEBE:** The Voter

15.

Okeke, "Roof" for short - was a very popular man in his village. Although the villagers did not explain it in so many words, Roof's popularity was a measure of the villager's gratitude to an energetic young man. For Roof, unlike most of his fellows, had not abandoned the village to seek work -any work- in the towns. And Roof was not a village lout either. Everyone knew how he had spent two years as a bicycle repairer apprentice in Port Harcourt and had given up, of his own free will, a bright future to return to his people and guide them in these political times. Not that Umuofia needed a lot of guidance. The village already belonged en masse to the People's Alliance Party, and its most illustrious son, Chief the Honorable Marcus Ibe, was Minister of Culture in the outgoing government (which was pretty certain to be the incoming one as well). Nobody doubted the Honorable Minister would be reelected in his constituency. Opposition to him was like the proverbial fly trying to move a dunghill. It would have been ridiculous enough without coming, as it did now, from a complete non entity.

As was to be expected, Roof was in the services of the Honorable Minister for the coming elections. He had become a real expert in elections; campaigning at all levels - village, local government, or national. He could tell the mood and temper of the electorate at any given time. For instance, he had warned the Minister months ago about the radical change that had come into the thinking of Umuofia since the last national election.

The villagers had five years to see how quickly and plentifully politics brought wealth, chieftaincy titles, doctorate degrees, and other honors. Some of these, like the last, had still to be explained satisfactorily to them; for they still expected a doctor to heal the sick. Anyhow, these honors had come so readily to the man they had voted for - and now they were ready to think again.

Their point was that only the other day, Marcus Ibe was a not-too-successful mission school teacher. Then politics had come to their village and he had wisely joined up, some say to avoid dismissal arising from an indiscretion. Today, he was Chief the Honorable; he had two long cars and had just built himself the biggest house anyone had seen in these parts. But let it be said that none of these successes had gone to Marcus' head - as they might. He remained a man of the people. Whenever he could, he left the good things of the capital, and returned to his village which had neither running water nor electricity. He knew the source of his good fortune, unlike the bird who ate and drank, then went out to challenge his spirit. Marcus had christened his new house Umuofia Mansions in honor of his village and slaughtered five bulls and countless goats to entertain the people on the day it was opened by the Archbishop.

#### **Ouestions**

- a) Explain the character of Rufus as shown in this extract
- Brilliant
- Perceptive

- Energetic
- Hard working
- Humble
- Honest

# Any 4x 2: 8 marks

- b) How is style effectively used in the extract?
- Omniscient narrator
- Contrast/ juxtaposition between Rufus and Ibe
- Setting of the village
- Humor
- Personification
- Irony
- Characterisation

# **Any 5x2: 10 marks**

- c) What contrasts exist between Rufus and Marcus as shown in the passage?
- Rufus is humble while the minister is proud and full of himself in a subtle way
- The minister is oblivious of what may happen ahead, unlike Rufus who is more perceptive and aware
- The contrasts of village and town experiences make Marcus more experienced, unlike Rufus who has trained himself in his abilities as a man
- Ibe has also been able to achieve for himself what Rufus has not been able to achieve. The villagers are even more aware of this contrast of what politics does.

# Any 4x2: 8 marks

- d) Explain the themes in this passage and how they are borne out in other sections of the story
- Political excesses
- Village naivety
- Disillusionment
- Political change and dynamics

# **Any 4x2: 08 marks**

# **SECTION D**

# JULIUS OCWINYO: Footprints of the Outsider

16. How significant is the setting of the novel *Footprints of the Outsider*?

Candidates are required to show the importance of the setting in the novel

Setting refers to the place and time of action in a literary text. It also includes the objects and their symbolic significance in the different locations in the text. In the novel, setting is significant in many ways:

- Teboke village is where Olwit is born. It is a place of origin despite the fact that his birth comes from an illicit relationship and prostitution.
- In Teboke, Olwit is raised. The struggles he goes through help him want something bigger and better for himself
- At the cotton ginnery, the Indians mistreat people. It is a space of oppression against the non Ugandans. It also shows the excesses of migration and migratory labor.
- Further more, Alicinora sleeps with the workers at the ginnery. This prostitution that is allowed to thrive at the ginnery is what leads to Olwit's birth. It shows the complexities of his birth, and the struggle to survive by his mother.
- In Teboke, the land question is important especially in light of migrants from Sudan and the center of the cotton ginnery being owned by the Indians.
- In Teboke too, Olwit suffers from humiliation and teasing from both his mother and peers because of his parentage and the kind of child that he is.
- At university, Olwit is able to get an education. His hopes and dreams come alive when he becomes a teacher. University helps him shape his vision for profession and career.
- Prison comes because of Adoli's fears of what Olwit can become. It only fans his determination to join politics.
- The campaign rallies show the violent nature of politics and how people suffer for politicians who are oblivious of the needs of those they would like to represent in parliament.

#### Mark as a whole: 33 marks

17. Discuss the view that education is futile in the wake of political turmoil as shown in the novel *Footprints of the Outsider*.

Candidates are required to show how futile or not education is in the wake of political turmoil. Special attention should be given to Olwit's journey in politics, his struggles and the final journey to political office.

## **HENRY OLE KULET:** Vanishing Herds

18. How significant for our times is the novel *Vanishing Herds*?

## Candidates are required to show how the novel is relevant to events in our times

- There is cattle rustling in Uganda and East Africa
- Nomadic cattle keeping is also prominent in many areas where drought exists.

- Cattle rustling leads to death and a lot of scuffles in communities.
- Issues like traditional medicine are taught by the elderly in our communities
- IN the face of fear and conflict, women too take up arms in order to safeguard their livelihoods.
- The environment is preserved by the people in different ways. In the book, the environment takes on a human characteristic
- Feminists are not well received in many African communities because they seem to contest cultural constructions of these communities
- We have different kinds of fortune tellers, interpreters of dreams ad visions in our society
- Droughts as part of community life are shown in the text
- Many children, when they grow up, look for their birthplace
- Life is a spiritual journey just like Norpisia's spiritual journey in the novel
- There is a great degree of degradation of the environment in Uganda.
- Loss is a fact of life, especially death of loved ones

19. How does Kulet make his novel *Vanishing Herds* interesting for the reader?

# Candidates are required to show the techniques the writer uses in the text to make it interesting

- Characterization
- Chronological development
- Symbolism
- Setting
- The use of local language in the Maa diction
- Foreboding
- Dialogue
- Descriptive narrative
- Contrast/ Juxtaposition
- Internal monologue
- Flash forward
- Ironv

Any 11 x 3: 33 marks

OSI OGBU: The Moon Also Sets

20. Discuss the use of irony in the novel The Moon Also Sets

# Candidates are required to show the use of irony in the text

- Obi goes to school to bring happiness to her life and mother only to bring pain for herself
- Obi realises it too late that Chris, and not Chike has her good interests at heart
- The mad person's prophecy seems unreal until Obi sees the mess she's in at the end of the novel.
- The chief is in power and yet is aware of this lack of it because he his osu background
- School is supposed to have great memories for Obi yet these memories turn out to be bitter and hard for her at the end of the novel.
- Obi's uncle who should protect her and her mother is the one that works against them and leads to their financial destruction.
- Obi gives herself to Chike out of love yet Chike does it for his own pleasure. It is no wonder that at the end, she feels used.
- Obi's uncle uses his power to show his influence over Mama Obi and her brother, and does not take on parental role after the death of Obi's father. This is in a way betrayal of a trust that should have existed in the family.
- Obi should have been saved by Chike from the Professor yet it is Chris who turns up for the saving act.

#### Mark as a whole: 33 marks

21. What lessons do you, as a reader, get from the life of Obi in the novel *The Moon Also Sets*?

## Candidates are required to show the lessons they get from the life of Obi

Obi is the central character of the novel. She leaves her village and comes to Embakassi University where she meets Chike and her life changes throughout the novel. There are many lessons to draw from her life.

- The need to be ambitious about school
- Love should not depend on sex
- Abortion is not an option even in the face of mistakes.
- It is important to think about our actions before we end up acting on impulses.
- We should stand up for what we believe to be right, even when it will cause us trouble with our elders
- Naivety should not be used as a reason for our actions
- No one has the power over us except those we allow to have power over us
- It is important to listen to even those we think are far below us on the social scale
- Sex before marriage is not right. Patience in relationships is important.
- Love is tested over time, not impulses.

**END**