

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY**



**END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 2018/2019**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGES (ENGLISH)**

**CUVH 112: AFRICAN WRITERS AND AFRICAN SOCIETIES**

**DURATION: 2 HOURS**

**STUDENT ID No.....**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A AND ONE IN SECTION B. ANSWER ALL  
QUESTIONS IN SECTION C ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**

**DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD TO DO SO BY  
THE INVIGILATOR**

**Section A:**

**Answer all questions in this section (10 marks)**

1. "I will shoot my **way** to it this **day**." The words in bold letters are examples of ....
  - a. Assonance
  - b. Alliteration
  - c. Onomatopoeia
  - d. Rhyme
  
2. "I will pronounce your name, **Naett**, I will declaim you, **Naett!**". The two highlighted words in the line of poetry are referred to as .....

  - a. Tone
  - b. Names
  - c. Repetition
  - d. Lyrical

  
3. What is the **mood** in the lines "If I don't learn to shut my mouth I'll soon go to hell, /I, Okigbo, town-crier / together with my iron bell"?

  - a. Courage
  - b. Excitement
  - c. Fear
  - d. Relief

  
4. .... *I lingered over the choice*  
*But in the darkness of my doubts*  
*You lifted the lamp of love*  
*And I saw in your face.....*  
The word **But**, in the lines of poetry above indicate \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Poetry
  - b. Repetition
  - c. Mood
  - d. Contrast
  
5. How does eighteen-year-old, Okonkwo, bring honour to his village?
  - (a) He has a barn full of yams.
  - (b) He plays his flute in the village after the harvest.
  - (c) He throws the great wrestler, Amalinze the Cat.
  - (d) He has no patience with unsuccessful men.

6. Why doesn't Okonkwo have any patience with his father?
- (a) Unoka spoils his wife and children, providing them with too much food and money.
  - (b) Unoka is a great warrior who is always away at war.
  - (c) Unoka is lazy, a debtor, and a failure.
  - (d) Unoka is overly ambitious and driven to earn the highest titles in the land.
7. The Umuofia community is autonomous in the first part of the novel because
- A. Okonkwo's leadership ensured that
  - B. The community regulated itself on its own terms
  - C. The European missionaries eventually came there
  - D. None of the above
8. Literature is defined as a creative imaginative piece of art which is written or orally delivered.
- a. True
  - b. False
9. In Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, Okonkwo commits suicide because of \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Anger
  - b. Disappointment
  - c. Fear
  - d. Shame
10. The name of Okonkwo's first son is \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Ekwefi
  - b. Eziama
  - c. Nneka
  - d. Nwoye

**Section B:**

Choose and answer **ONLY ONE QUESTION** in an essay of not more than two pages (20 marks)

1. Examine one major theme in **any one** of the poems studied in class, showing how the poet uses literary and sound devices to bring out that theme.
2. Examine two major themes in Mazisi Kunene's poem "Kindness" and show two literary devices the poet uses to emphasize the themes in the poem.
3. Assess the character of Okonkwo and the significance of his death in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
4. Analyze Christianity and the merits and demerits of its Models of operation in Umuofia in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
5. Examine the effect of European presence and activities on the people and customs of the village of Umuofia in Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*.
6. Examine the theme of determinism in Ama Ata Aidoo's play, *Anowa*
7. "The tragedy of Anowa and Kofi Arko is also that of the larger society". Discuss

**SECTION C: AFRICAN SOCIETIES. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**

Select the best option for your answer. Each question in this section carries 1 mark.

1. A significant landmark in traditional Africans' encounter with Christianity is...
  - a. democracy.
  - b. education.
  - c. moral reasoning.
  - d. Western ethics.
  
2. In African ethics, it is believed that an individual's morality affects the... of the community.
  - a. conducts
  - b. future
  - c. interrelatedness
  - d. well-being
  
3. In traditional Africa, there is no individuality without the community. This means...
  - a. the community is an a priori.
  - b. the individual and the community are suppositional reality.
  - c. the individual and the community are inseparable.
  - d. either individuality or the community is opposed to the other.
  
4. Individuality is expressed in traditional African society from the moment of... in the ritual of...
  - a. birth; death rites
  - b. birth; name-giving
  - c. name-giving; death rites
  - d. puberty; initiation

5. When traditional folks placated their gods with food and drinks, they did that to...
- a. establish new patterns in appeasing the gods and invoking their power.
  - b. establish the rule of law.
  - c. mend their broken relationship with the gods and called for their blessings.
  - d. stimulate new social relations.
6. "Africans are notoriously religious," depicts that...
- a. Africans do better in religion.
  - b. Africans love to practice religion.
  - c. religion describes the existence of Africans.
  - d. religion is linked to Africans.
7. In traditional African society both the sacred and secular are...
- a. well defined separately.
  - b. one and same.
  - c. independent of each other.
  - d. dichotomized.
8. The centrality of the universe in African tradition is provided by the existence of...
- a. God.
  - b. human beings.
  - c. the ancestors.
  - d. the unborn.
9. African religion is "traditional" because it is...
- a. a fossil religion.
  - b. imported into Africa.
  - c. originating from their environment and on their soil.
  - d. revealed in the manner of western/eastern religions.

- b. reveal the future of African people.
- c. show the animistic past of Africa.
- d. offer sources for academic deliberation.
- e. answers the residual philosophy of Africans.
- f. reveal myths, liturgies, songs and systematic recitals among others...

## SECTION B: CASE STUDIES [20 MARKS]

Read the cases in this section carefully and with your knowledge of Understanding African Societies answer the questions that follow. Each question in this section carries 1 mark.

### CASE STUDY 1

It is obvious that there are many different cultures, and many differences within cultures in sub-Saharan Africa. Historic developments, demographic and ecological differences, as well as economic opportunities, colonial impact and religious missionary activities, to mention but a few factors, have resulted in a diversity of lifestyles, professional practices, values, religions and knowledge systems. Africa has a diversity of ecosystems, ranging from extensive mountain areas, savannah and dry land areas, to lowlands, coastal plains and tropical forests. Nomadic peoples often compete for land and water resources with sedentary peoples. The urban population is increasing and a considerable number of large cities exist. Traditional religions have common elements, but there is also a great variation in rituals, traditional institutions and leadership structures. They are often combined with, or have been replaced by Christianity or Islam. As a result, a great number of different religious denominations can be observed.

11. Lines (L1.) 1-2 disclose that traditional West African cultures are not...
- a. heterogeneous.
  - b. homogeneous.
  - c. sacrosanct.
  - d. unilateral.
12. Three conceptual elements of modernity that have impacted traditional West African cultures can be classed as follows...
- a. colonization, development and globalisation.
  - b. development, religion and colonisation.
  - c. globalisation, colonisation and religion.
  - d. religion, globalisation and development.

13. The mention of "religious missionary activities" reveal an...

- a. interaction between African religion and non-African religious philosophies.
- b. interaction between Christianity and Islam.
- c. interaction among indigenous African cultures.
- d. not applicable.

14. The existence of large cities in West African countries today are as a result of...

- a. proliferation of new religions.
- b. the rise of Nomadic lifestyle.
- c. traditional institutions and leadership structures.
- d. urbanisation.

15. The mention of 'nomadic peoples' and 'sedentary peoples' in 1.5 unveil the economic condition of traditional West African communities, which were predominantly dependent on...

- a. commercial activities.
- b. industrial activities.
- c. pastoral and agrarian activities.
- d. technological activities.

## CASE STUDY 2

The colonial past has had a strong impact on the indigenous cultures and peoples, limiting their capacity to solve their own problems and develop technologies and skills that serve their own needs. Colonisation left the continent with a low level of literacy, few educated people, and with poor physical and institutional infrastructure. The most productive agricultural lands, forestry and mineral resources have been, and often still are, exploited by entrepreneurs with a colonial background. Most of the present nations, those that exist less than 50 years, still reflect major aspects of the colonial system rather than the pre-colonial indigenous systems of governance. The same holds for the legal system and the education system. The religions of the colonisers and missionaries over the past centuries, though they introduced alien concepts and rituals, have not been able to suppress the value attached to ancestors, funerals, and a host of other traditional practices. Most health practices in rural Africa today are based on traditional healers and knowledge, using a wide range of herbs and rituals.



16. Most traditional Ghanaian cultures believed their dead ancestors return home during festivities; they showed this belief by...

- a. hosting special drumming sessions for them.
- b. mourning and cooking for them.
- c. performing traditional acrobatics to entertain them.
- d. prodding the conscience of the ancestors.

17. Which one of the following is most accurate about funeral rites in traditional Akan societies?

- a. All funeral attendees were expected to mourn the dead.
- b. Funeral rites brought families together.
- c. Relatives and mourners were not expected to eat until the final burial rite was over.
- d. The quality of life an individual lived in the society were attenuated with its funeral rites.

18. The inability of West African nations to resolve their internal dilemma and develop technologies and skills to situate themselves are attributed to their...

- a. colonial history.
- b. cultural history.
- c. educational history.
- d. illiteracy history.

19. In what way is colonisation blamed for under development in Africa?

- a. The collapse of traditional trade and rise of multi-national companies.
- b. The modernisation of African communities.
- c. The presence of high illiteracy level and infrastructure development.
- d. The rise of high literacy levels and bad governance.

20. Modern West African states are said to be unable to... their governance and political systems.

- a. decolonise
- b. galvanise
- c. promote
- d. synergise

21. The mention of “pre-colonial indigenous systems of governance” refers to the era when...

- a. African nations were preparing for independence.
- b. chiefs, queens and kings reigned.
- c. Europeans arrived in Ghana.
- d. new colonial politicians came to power.

22. In traditional Africa, education took the form of...

- a. observation, participation and action.
- b. pondering, reading and writing.
- c. reading, reciting and writing.
- d. role play and research.

23. Western religious activities have been unable to suppress major African beliefs like ancestor veneration, rites of passage, etc. because Western religions were considered...

- a. foreign.
- b. harsh.
- c. impulsive.
- d. too modern.

### CASE STUDY 3

Africa is changing fast and there exists a mix of dominantly traditional, dominantly modern and more hybrid subcultures. Some aspects of indigenous knowledge are expressed openly, whilst other aspects are secretive and hidden from outsiders. Many studies about African worldviews and indigenous knowledge either stress the positive aspects, or strive to show the limitations and negative aspects. The first written anthropological studies on Africa often included biases and Eurocentric prejudices, which, in part, have been corrected later. Romanticising indigenous knowledge, however, is not a good basis for endogenous development either. Phenomena such as taboos against planting trees, gross inequalities between men and women, land use practices that have detrimental ecological effects, and misuse of their position and knowledge by local leaders, are aspects which need to be observed and brought into the intercultural dialogue.

24. Initial studies carried out on traditional African religion were done from the perspective of...

- a. cultural practitioners.
- b. Pan-Africanists.
- c. Social entrepreneurs
- d. Western anthropologists.

25. The dominance of gender inequality in modern Africa proceeded from...

- a. cultural practices.
- b. economic arrangement.
- c. religious tradition.
- d. societal construct.

26. Traditional leadership structure in West Africa is mainly...

- a. autocratic.
- b. democratic.
- c. hierarchical.
- d. oligarchy.

27. Reference to "local leaders" in the case reveals a system of governance in traditional African Communities. How was democracy exhibited in this system of governance?

- a. It was exhibited at every level through the participation of men and women in community discussions.
- b. It was exhibited when the local leaders sit to discuss funeral rites
- c. It was exhibited at the palace.
- d. It was only exhibited at communal activities level.

28. Communal rituals were ushered and performed by the... for the protection and the progression of the community.

- a. clan heads
- b. chiefs
- c. diviners and prophets
- d. priestesses

29. In African societies, the community was organised for the purposes of social cohesion and...

- a. mourning.
- b. cultural practices and rituals.
- c. politics and military defence.
- d. economic gains and industrialisation.

30. Which one of the following is the goal for the existence of traditional communities? The community...

- a. came to the aid of the slothful from time to time.
- b. denied daring individuals of their economic lots.
- c. ensured the safety of people and property.
- d. promoted parochial interests.