

ENGLISH

101 / 2

Question 1

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (20 mks) *NDI*

It was from an African friend who had known the village in which Johnny died that I heard of his last years. Johnny walked into the village, asked to see the chief, and when the chief assembled with his elders, asked formally for permission to live in the village, as an African, not as a white man. All this was quite correct, and polite, but the elders did not like it. This village was a long way from the centers of white power, up towards the white cities, whose structures had been smashed for ever. The people of this tribe cherished their distance from the white man, and feared his influence. At least, the older ones did. While they had nothing against this white man as a man – on the contrary, he seemed more human than most – they did not want a white man in their life. But what could they do? Their traditions of hospitality were strong: strangers, visitors, travellers, must be sheltered and fed. And they were democratic: a man was as good as his behaviour. It was against their belief to throw a person out for a collective fault. And perhaps they were, too, a little curious. The white men these people had seen were the tax-collectors, the policemen, the Native commissioners, all coldly official or arbitrary. This white man behaved like a supplicant, sitting quietly on the outskirts of the village, beyond the huts, under a tree, waiting for the council to make up its mind. Finally, they let him stay, on condition that he shared the life of the village in every way. The proviso they probably thought would soon get rid of him. But he lived there until he died, six years, with short trips away to remind himself, perhaps, of the strident life he had left. It was on such a trip that he had walked up to our house and stayed the night.

The Africans called him Angry face. This name implied that it was only the face which was angry. It was because of his habit of screwing up and then letting loose his facial muscles. They also called him man without a Home, and The Man who has no Woman.

The women found him intriguing in spite of his sixty years. They hung about his hut, gossiped about him, brought him presents. Several made offers, even young girls.

The chief and his elders conferred again, under the great tree in the center of the village and then called him to hear their verdict.

“You need a woman,” they said, and in spite of all his protests, made it a condition of his staying with them for the sake of the tribe’s harmony.

They chose for him a woman of middle age whose husband had died of the black water fever, and who had had no children. They said that a man of his age could not be expected to give the patience and attention that small children need. According to my friend who as a small boy had heard much talk of this white man who had preferred their way of life to his own, Johnny and his new woman lived together in kindness.

It was while I was writing this story that I remembered something else. When I was at school in Salisbury there was a girl called Alicia Blakeworthy. She was fifteen, a ‘big girl’ to me. She lived with her mother on the fringes of the town. Her step-father had left them. He had walked out.

Her mother had a small house, in a large garden, and she took in paying guests. One of these guests had been Johnny. He had been working as a game warden up towards the Zambezi river, and had had malaria badly. She nursed him. He married her and took a job as a counter hand in the local grocery store. He was a bad husband to mum, said Alicia. Terrible, Yes, he brought in money, it wasn’t that. But he was a cold hard-hearted man. He was no company for them.

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He would just sit and read, or listen to the radio, or walk around by himself all night. And he never appreciated what was done for him.

Oh how we schoolgirls all hated this monster! What a heartless beast he was.

But the way he saw it, he had stayed for four long years in a suffocating town house surrounded by a domesticated garden. He had worked from eight to four selling groceries to lazy women. When he came home, this money, the gold he had earned by his slavery, was spent on chocolates, magazines, dresser, hair-ribbons for his townified step-daughter. He was invited, three times a day, to sit down at a table crammed with roast beef and chickens and puddings and cakes and biscuits.

He used to fry and share his philosophy of living.

“ I used to feed myself for ten shillings a week”!

“ But why? What for? What’s the point?”

“ Because I was free, that’s the point! If you don’t spend a lot of money then you don’t have to earn it and you are free. Why do you have to spend money on all this rubbish? You can buy a piece of rolled brisket for three shillings, and you boil it with an onion and you can live off it for four days! You can live off mealie meal well enough. I often did, in the bush.”

“Mealie meal! I’m not going to eat native food!”

“Why not? What’s wrong with it?”

“If you can’t see why not, then I’m afraid I can’t help you.”

Perhaps it was here, with Alicia’s mother, that the idea of “going native” had first come into his head.

“ For crying out loud, why cake all the time, why all these new dresses, why do you have to have new curtains, why do we have curtains at all, what’s wrong with the sunlight? What’s wrong with the starlight? Why do you want to shut them out? Why?”

That “marriage” lasted four years, a fight all the way.

Then he drifted North, out of the white man’s towns, and up into those parts that had not been “opened up to white settlement”, and where the Africans were still living, though not for long, in their traditional ways. And there at last he found a life that suited him, and a woman with whom he lived in kindness.

*(The story of a Non-Marrying Man by Doris Lessing
From The Sun Between their feet Vol II collected African
Stories published by Michael Joseph)*

- a) Why did the elders fear the influence of the white man? 1mk *NDI*
 - b) Give three reasons why the elders agreed to let Johnny live in their village. 3mks *NDI*
 - c) **Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice**
 - (i) The people of this tribe cherished their distance from the white man, and feared his influence. 1mk *NDI*
 - (ii) The traditional life was still comparatively unchanged, (Add a question tag) 1mk *NDI*
 - d) Why did Johnny sometimes make short trips away from the village? 1mk *NDI*
 - e) In your own words and in one sentence explain why the elders decided that Johnny needed a woman. 2mks *NDI*
 - f) What jobs are we told that Johnny had held in his working life? 1mk *NDI*
 - g) (i) “ I used to feed myself for ten shillings a week!” he exclaimed. Write in reported speech. 1mk *NDI*
 - (ii) It was on such a trip that he walked up to our house and stayed the night. 1mk *NDI*
- Rewrite the sentence beginning with He** 1mk *NDI*
- h) Identify the tone used in the speech beginning “For crying out aloud?” 1mk *NDI*
 - i) What three main ideas is the writer trying to put across? 3mks *NDI*
 - J) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. 4mks *NDI*
 - Proviso
 - Intriguing
 - Conferred
 - Fringes

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2. Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow (25 mks) *NDI*

Immediately the house was filled with wailing and voices outside took up the lament till it spread beyond the home itself to the whole neighbourhood. People began to slash and twist branches from the trees and run up and down with them, singing and weeping. Paulina found herself weeping and singing with the rest. Fragment of old praise songs which she thought long forgotten came to her unbidden. She did not understand all the allusions made by the old people but the pattern was familiar and it gave tongue to what she felt.

People were bringing chairs, stools and benches from all around and arraying the outside the house ready to place inside for the wake as soon as the body had been prepared and arranged. One of the uncles was brandishing a sharpened stick as though it were a real spear and making mock rushes as though to attack by standers in a frighteningly realistic way: it was easy to believe that in the old days more deaths had resulted from the celebration of one, when armed warrior would campaign to the edge of the district in honour of the name of the lately dead. As soon as it could decently be done, Paulina's brother summoned her and sent her about the purchase of tea and sugar for the crowd from her own money, while he sent out messages for his own wife and other relations to come urgently, mustering all those who would be traveling or could send a verbal message by road transport: he also sent for the nearest market carpenter to come and see about the coffin. An uncle set aside a beast for slaughter next day, as night was already approaching, and, after tedious labour over refreshments in which the neighbouring women shared, Paulina settled herself in a corner of the house for the long night of singing and story telling in honour of the dead. Her mother was sitting rigidly in the best chair, her cries now stilled, her eyes sunken with weariness, her feet twitching from time to time out of exhaustion, her face a mask of extreme dignity. She was ennobled by her loss in the eyes of all around. It was as though after thirty years in that homestead, seventeen of them in which she reigned supreme, her father – in - law and his wives now dead, her husband constantly away, the decision hers to plant to harvest, to store, to sell (only once he had renewed the house in that time and arranged about the dowry cattle), she had momentarily become the household head, a person to be consulted and differed to. Of course she had grown – up sons and so would not need to be inherited by another husband. Soon the sons would be in charge and she would retain just enough of her gardens to support herself and youngest child as long as support was needed.

Paulina had got used to a regular routine of work and sleep and the obsessive requirements of ritual left her drained and light headed, even apart from the emptiness of unexpected grief. The next three days and nights were a blur to her: constant cooking and washing of utensils, new visitors arriving with new loud bursts of lamentation and considerable appetites. They made the actual burial the next afternoon, as her other brother managed to arrive in the morning with his wife, and the hole had been prepared against his arrival and coffin quickly knocked up. A lay preacher came to lead the service and speeches were made before the grave was filled in. They kept silence, as was customary, so that the dead could recognize - although the box was already screwed down – if any bewitcher was at hand. But witchcraft was powerful in Ukambani, someone murmured afterwards, and none of *those* people was around here. Perhaps they had resented his superior strength, or else resented the withdrawal of it on retirement. After all, he was an elderly man and, as the preacher said, we all come to our time. Only custom has never recognized that time as natural. Perhaps that was why you had to keep watch the customary days, in case of death should still be prowling and find you vulnerable, asleep. Or perhaps it was just because no home could find sleeping-mats for so many, or accommodate them without breaking the complex rules of avoidance.

QUESTIONS

- a) Place this extract in its immediate context. 2mks *NDI*
- b) From the extract, give and illustrate one character trait of Paulina. 2mks *NDI*
- c) Explain the meaning of;
- (i) “ she was ennobled by her loss in the eyes of all around. 1mk *NDI*
- (ii) “ or accommodate them without breaking the complex rules of avoidance.” 1mk *NDI*
- d) Identify a sentence that has parenthesis. 1mk *NDI*

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- e) As soon as it could decently be done, Paulina's brother summoned her and sent her about the purchase of tea and sugar for the crowd from her own money. Rewrite beginning with: (1mk)
NDI
No sooner
- f) Identify and show the effect of one stylistic device used in the extract. 2mks *NDI*
- g) Basing your summary on the extract, explain the mourning process for Paulina's father in a bout ninety (90) words). 6mks *NDI*

ROUGH DRAFT

FAIR DRAFT

- h) List the factors that make Paulina's mother different from the other women. 3mks *NDI*
 - i) Why is Martin conspicuously absent from this occasion? 1mk *NDI*
 - j) Illustrate the theme that manifests itself in this extract 2mks *NDI*
 - k) Give two examples of women who liberate themselves and how they do it from elsewhere in the text. 3mks *NDI*
3. Read the following poem and then answer the questions that follow in the spaces provided. *NDI*

Facelift of Kafira

*Though you belong here still
You've lost something of that purity
That brought tears of joy
To my saddened eyes.*

*Your smile is no longer
The first cockcrow of each passing day
And your walk is the walk
Of a tired traveller*

*Yet I blame you not
My innocent one.
You were a mere rabbit
Trapped in the vices of the mighty.*

*Each time you stood before me
And smiled a million years of hope
I knew I would take it all,
A challenge well cherished.*

*And now is my turn, Kafira, my turn
It is I that will rekindle -
That fire that burned gently
Beneath your maiden name*

*With a heart full of the warm
Blood of a long deprived groom
I know I will take it all
For it is a challenge well cherished.*

*With luke-warm water and soft cotton fingers
I will wash you gently each passing day
Yes, I will rid you of that foreign smell
And render it forever, a thing of the past.*

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Then tomorrow they will come and say,
 Look, what tears of joy!
 What purity!
 What warmth, KAFIRA!

As you shine brightly to crown
 A challenge well cherished.

Francis Imbuga

Questions:

- (a) Why, according to the poem, does Kafira need a facelift? 2mks*NDI*
- (b) Identify the tone in the poem and the expression that the poet uses to bring it out. 2mks*NDI*
- (c) Comment on the use of imagery in the poem. 6mks*NDI*
- d) (i) Who is the speaker in the poem? 2mks*NDI*
- (ii) What aspects of the speaker's character are brought out in the poem? 4mks*NDI*
- e) Give the meaning of the following lines as used in the poem:
 Trapped in the vices of the mighty. 2mks*NDI*
 That fire that burned gently
 Beneath your maiden name 2mks*NDI*

4. a) **Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given. Do not change the meaning.** 3mks*NDI*

- i) I am not sure if everyone would agree with your proposal.
 (Start: Not everyone.....)
- ii) The teacher found out how intelligent Omollo was when he started the discussion.
 (Begin : It was not
- iii) What is the problem?
 (Rewrite as an indirect question)

b) **Complete the following sentences, avoiding unnecessary repetition.** 3mks*NDI*

- i) I started fending for myself when I was fifteen years old, and I still
- ii) Karoli did not steal the book, but he is not prepared to say who
- iii) If parents won't care for their children, it is hard to think who
- iv) If Hon. Kalozi wins a parliamentary seat, and I sincerely hope he,
 he must improve the living standards of his constituents.
- v) Abigael had not been informed about the incident, although her husband
- vi) Chebet makes better curry than Linet

C) **From the sentence connectors given in brackets, choose the correct alternative to fill in the blank spaces.** 3mks*NDI*

- i) Vincent's plays had won prizes in competitions; (so that / consequently) he thought himself a professional playwright.
- ii) Nderitu did a lot for his community; (even though/ nevertheless) the community did not appreciate his efforts.
- iii) I first listened to Prof. John Ngugi delivering a public lecture three years ago;, I have come to like his literary works. (after / after that)
- iv) Shylock lends money to Venetians to help them solve their problems. the Venetians hate him because he is a Jew. (however / even though)
- v) he knew about the consequences of sneaking out of the school compound, he went ahead to do so. (Even so / Even though).
- vi) Abortion is,, horrifying beyond words. (in fact / thus)

d) **Combine each of the following pairs of sentences into a single one using the correct relative pronoun given in brackets.** 3mks*NDI*

- i) William Shakespeare wrote The Merchant of Venice. He also wrote Romeo and Juliet.
 (Who / whom)
- ii) The boy came here yesterday.

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- He topped in last year's KCSE (who / which)
- iii) The visitors have arrived.
I was speaking of them. (who / which)
- e) **Use the correct form of the word given in brackets to fill in the blanks in the following sentences. 3mks*NDI***
 - (i) The drama club patron wanted a written from the students following their misconduct during the festivals (apologise)
 - (ii) His punishment will be a to others (deter)
 - (iii) Your explanation is based on too many (presume)
 - iv) The government has lost all following the increasing cases of corruption in high places. (credible)
 - v) A student must display a lot of and imagination while writing compositions based on set texts. (creative)
 - iv) The attack on Mr. Johnes' farm was carried out with military(precise)

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