

**M.A. 4th Semester Examination, 2012**

**ENGLISH**

PAPER – 2204A

*Full Marks : 40*

*Time : 2 hours*

**Answer all questions**

*The figures in the right hand margin indicate marks*

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable*

1. Attempt any one of the following (within 300 words) : 10
- (a) Write a critical note on the narrative techniques used in *Things Fall Apart*.
  - (b) Okonkwo's tragedy lies in failing 'alone'. Elucidate.
  - (c) *The grass is Singing* portrays the evils of colonialism and racial injustice. Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer.

- (d) Why and how does Mary in the *grass is singing* rebel against a disastrous marriage and an environment to which she was doomed?

2. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words):

10

(a) Examine Soyinka's idea of the role of the artist in history in the context of his portrayal of the character of Demoke in *A Dance of the Forests*.

(b) Would you regard Soyinka's view of history in *A Dance of the Forests* as pessimistic? Give reasons for your answer.

(c) Discuss Soyinka's view of the African ritual theatre as expressed in his essay *Drama and the African world-view*.

(d) How does Soyinka establish in *Drama and the African world-view* that modern Western dramatic criticism is hampered by a restricted world-view?

3. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words):

10

(a) Bring out the significance of the title of *A House for Mr. Biswas*.

- (b) Critically comment on Naipaul's use of irony and humour in *A House for Mr. Biswas*.
- (c) How do the poems of *Midsummer* illustrate Walcott's contribution to the resurrection of landscape poetry.
- (d) Analyse the representation of the women in the selected extract from Derek Walcott's *Omeros*.
4. Write comments on any *two* of the following (each comment should be within 100 words):  $5 \times 2$
- (a) Role of Obierika in *Things Fall Apart*
- (b) Fire imagery in *Things Fall Apart*
- (c) The view of war in *A Dance of the Forests*
- (d) Zifa's 'sterile pride' in *Song of a Goat*
- (e) Mr. Biswas's admission to the Canadian Mission School
- (f) The religious overtones in Walcott's *Crusoe's Journal*.
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