



**Requirements for this paper:**

Multiple-choice answer sheets:  No

Non-programmable calculator:  No

Graph paper:  No

Laptop:  No

Open book examination?  No

<b>EXAMINATION:</b>	Mid-Year MAIN Examination	<b>PROGRAMME:</b>	B.A./ B.Ed.
<b>MODULE CODE:</b>	HENG73324	<b>DURATION:</b>	3 HOURS
<b>MODULE DESCRIPTION:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Century and Contemporary Literature	<b>MARKS:</b>	100
<b>EXAMINER(S):</b>	Mr M Nthunya	<b>DATE:</b>	30 May 2025
<b>MODERATOR(S):</b>	Mr J Vermeulen (External) Mrs R Roodt (Internal)	<b>TIME:</b>	09:00

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**NB: PLEASE answer SECTION A and SECTION B in separate answer books.**

**Begin your answer to each question on a NEW page.**

## SECTION A: POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

### QUESTION 1: Postcolonial theory and terminology (25)

Write brief, explanatory notes on **EACH** of the following terms. Number your answers clearly.

- 1.1 Ambivalence (5)
- 1.2 Binary (5)
- 1.3 Centre/Margin (5)
- 1.4 Authenticity (5)
- 1.5 Essentialism (5)

### QUESTION 2: Novel (*Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga) (25)

Write an essay of 800 words in which you discuss *Nervous Conditions* as a bildungsroman. Your essay should chart key points in the protagonists' development and how these influence her character. (Your essay will be assessed using the attached rubric.)

## SECTION B: American Literature

### QUESTION 3: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Poetry (25)

Study the following poem and then answer the questions that follow.

#### **Harlem**

By Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*

- 3.1 Comment on the form and rhyme scheme of the poem. (5)
- 3.2 What is the tone and message of this poem? (5)
- 3.3 How does this poem speak to the experiences of African Americans in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and to what would you ascribe the situation? (5)
- 3.4 Quote two similes from the poem and explain their significance in the poem. (5)
- 3.5. Do you think that the poem is effective in communicating its message? Provide reasons for your answer. (5)

**QUESTION 4: 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Poetry (25)**

Study the poem below and write an essay of 800 words in which you critically analyse the poem's representation of the experiences of African Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Comment on theme, language and diction, tone and imagery. (Your essay will be assessed using the attached rubric.)

**Declaration**

By Tracy K. Smith

*He has*

*sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people*

*He has plundered our—*

*ravaged our—*

*destroyed the lives of our—*

*taking away our—*

*abolishing our most valuable—*

*and altering fundamentally the Forms of our—*

*In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for  
Redress in the most humble terms:*

*Our repeated  
Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.*

*We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration  
and settlement here.*

*—taken Captive*

*on the high Seas*

*to bear—*

**[TOTAL: 100]**

## RUBRIC FOR ASSESSMENT of ESSAYS

Score	Excellent	Good	Average	Weak	Poor	MARK
<b>OUTLINE</b>						
<b>Introduction:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background information</li> <li>Thesis statement.</li> </ul>						
<b>Body:</b> (Organisation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No headings or sub-headings used</li> <li>Topic sentences and supporting points in logical progression</li> <li>Ideas clearly stated/supported</li> </ul>						
<b>Conclusion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of the main points (no new information)</li> </ul>						
<b>CONTENT (3 marks each)</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of attention to audience.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideas clearly stated and supported; examples/evidence provided</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused topic</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate answer to the question.</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factual content</li> </ul>						
<b>USE OF LANGUAGE</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of technical or scientific terminology and vocabulary (academic register)</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentence construction; run-on sentences and/or fragments</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spelling &amp; Punctuation</li> </ul>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grammar / tenses/ subject verb-agreement</li> </ul>						
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>/25</b>