

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

2013/2014 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 425

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

DATE: Monday, 26th January, 2015

COURSE TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY HISTORY AND THEORY

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer THREE questions. Do not use the same material in more than one answer.

1. Write a critical essay on the place of literary history in the study of literature.
2. Present as clearly as you can the contributions of at least TWO of the following writers to the tradition of literary theory and criticism: (a) Plato; (b) Aristotle; (c) Sidney; (d) Wordsworth.
3. Write critical essays on the meaning and significance of THREE of the following: (a) Pan-Africanism; (b) cultural nationalism; (c) Modernism; (d) Postcolonialism; (e) hybridity; (f) Marxism.
4. Develop an outline literary history based on at least ONE of the following traditions, highlighting and explaining some of the key issues that may be of interest to either the general reading public or the student of literature: (a) European literature on Africa; (b) African literature; (c) Commonwealth literature; (d) literature in English.
5. Write a critical essay carefully setting out the theoretical and practical importance of at least TWO of the following issues in recent literary history. Define your terms where necessary, and relate them to the ideas of some of the critics that you have read: (a) culture contact; (b) language; (c) tradition; (d) conventions.