

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES
ENGLISH PROGRAMME
2019/2020 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 425

TIME ALLOWED: 3 Hours

COURSE TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY HISTORY, THEORY AND CRITICISM

DATE: 30-1-2020

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. DO NOT USE THE SAME MATERIAL TWICE.

SECTION A

- 1. Write a critical appreciation of one of the following poems. (30 marks)

"Benin Woman"

- (a) Under the smouldering sun of
This angry afternoon
You sum up the ancient city
In a quaint, moonlit stare, indifference.

Rooted to the earth
Left alone to sing in bronze
Your sad story

You become for me, the symbol
Of my snuffed-out love,
(cheap mushroom for a famished night's palate)
A totem of innocent death

The speech of your eurythma transforms
My erstwhile derision to worship;
And I suddenly realize
You put a stopped on your road
To oil the rusted joints of
Bittered emotions

(Odiá Ofeimun)

(b) Now I will chant a salute to my Ogun
 O Belligerent One, you are not cruel.
 The Ejemu, foremost chief of Iwonran Town,
 He who smartly accoutres himself and goes to fight.
 A butterfly chanches upon a civet-cat's excrement and flies high
 Up into the air.
 Ogun, don't fight against me.
 Don't play with me.

Just be to me a giver of good luck.
 You said you were playing with a child.
 I saw much blood flowing from flowing from the girl's private parts.
 Ogun, don't fight against me.
 Don't play with me.
 You said you were playing with a boy.
 I saw much blood flowing from the boy's private parts,
 Ogun, don't fight against me.
 Don't play with me.
 You were playing with a pigeon.
 The pigeon's head was torn from its neck.
 Ogun, don't fight against me.
 Don't play with me.

(Traditional from the Yoruba)

SECTION B

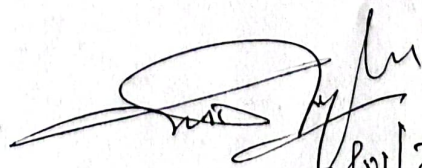
2. **Either: (a)** Explain, as clearly as you can, the relevance of Aristotle and Plato to literary theory and criticism. (20 marks)
Or: (b) Do a review of Philip Sidney's *The Defense of Poesy*. (20 marks)

3. **Either: (a)** Examine extensively the views of three notable critics on poetry, the poet and society. (20 marks)
Or: Who are the Augustans, and why was it necessary for the Romantics to revolt against their aesthetic conventions? Illustrate your answer using at least three critics to draw up your argument.(20 marks)

SECTION C

4. With close reference to the work of at least three authors/critics, say whether, in your view, there is really any difference between theory and criticism. Your answer should cut across regions in Africa. (20 marks)

5. What is Literary Theory? What is its relation to other forms of literary study? (20 marks)


 23/01/2020