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**BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES  
ENGLISH PROGRAMME  
2020/2021 FIRST SEMESTER ONLINE EXAMINATION**

**COURSE TITLE: An Introduction to Literary History, Theory and Criticism  
COURSE CODE: ENG 425  
TIME ALLOWED: 3 Hours  
DATE: March, 2021**

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS ONLY, ONE FROM EACH SECTION.**

**SECTION A**

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

**(a) "Mama answers the night call"**

she was just an inch from the infinite fringe  
and she soberly spoke to me from the depth  
of her fast fading and failing eyes  
white sheets and white poles  
colourless catheter and slivery pans  
dangling period pipes and life hoses  
to bring slim hope to the slipping one

she silently slid into my anxious arms  
from the serene softness of the bile-laden bed  
into the cheerless chair with wily wheels  
the chair agile ones dread with agility  
faithful companion to weak limbs

*can you carry me*

the aching echoes came from the far rear  
chilling images of childhood flogged me  
as this role reversal came flooding me  
yet a smile plastered my face

*mama dey go*

they came from the small of her throat  
her pained eyes wrote a pensive letter  
searing the heart in half  
the exit had to be graceful

*do not go mama*

silence split the air  
silence spat into the air

*can we pass this place to ovwia  
those trees resemble the trees at ovwia  
take me home to ovwia*

(hope eghagha)

**(b) "Post mortem"**

there are more functions to a freezing plant  
than stocking beer; cold biers of mortuaries  
submit their dues, harnessed – glory be! –

in the cold hand of death...  
his mouth was cotton filled, his man-pike  
shrunk to a subsoil grub

his head was hollowed and his brain  
on scales – was this a trick to prove  
fore-knowledge after death?

his flesh confesses what has stilled  
his tongue; masked fingers think from him  
to learn, how not to die

let us love all things of grey; grey slabs  
grey scalpel, one grey sleep and form,  
grey images.

(Wole Soyinka)

**SECTION B**

2. Examine Aristotle's and Plato's contributions to literary theory and criticism. (20 marks)
3. Discuss the views of three notable English critics as it relate to poetry, the poet and society (20 marks)

4. **Either: (a)** Do a brief review of Philip Sidney's *The Defense of Poesy*. (20 marks)

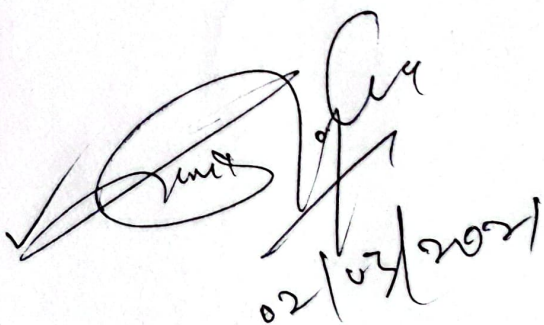
**Or: (b)** Identify the major English literary periods. Extensively discuss ONE of such periods, stating clearly two of the major writers of the era you have chosen.

(20 marks)

**SECTION C**

5. What is literary theory? Critically discuss the differences between literary theory and literary criticism. (20 marks)

6. Examine the relevance of theory and the role of critics to literature. (20 marks)

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